

RECREATION

272

— August 1939 —

PUBLIC LIBRARY
AUG 5 - 1939
DETROIT

Music Forums

By Margaret H. Letzig

Centers for Girls

By Ethel Bowers

To See What They Can See

The Newark Museum Nature Club

By Edward B. Lang

Lantern Pageants Are in the Making

By James Masik

Volume XXXIII, No. 5

Price 25 Cents

Vol. 33

AUGUST, 1939

No. 5

RECREATION

Published by and in the interests of the National Recreation Association
formerly named Playground and Recreation Association of America

Published monthly

at

315 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Subscription \$2.00 per year

RECREATION is on file in public libraries and is indexed in the
Readers' Guide

Table of Contents

	PAGE
The Trek Back to Che-Pe-Ko-Ke, by Jane Kitchell	259
Lantern Pageants in the Making, by James Masik	261
What They Say About Recreation	266
The Newark Museum Nature Club, by Edward B. Lang	267
Music Forums, by Margaret H. Letzig	269
Safety on the Playground	273
To See What They Can See, by Julia Anne Rogers	274
Salem Builds Swimming Pools, by Silas Gaiser	278
Wanted—a Public Relations Counsel, by Josephine Blackstock	279
Our National Parks, by Philip L. Seman	281
Centers for Girls, by Ethel Bowers	283
"Accent on Youth," by Robert L. Horney	290
Boston Awaits You	291
A Fourteenth Century Game Comes to Life, by Edward M. Ryan	295
Three Playground Personality Stories, by Edith Crasto	296
World at Play	297
Dubuque's Boys' State Election	304
Magazines and Pamphlets	305
A School of Recreation at Camp	307
New Publications in the Leisure Time Field	311

Entered as second-class matter June 12, 1929, at the Post Office at New York, New York,
under Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in
Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized May 1, 1924.

Copyright, 1939 by the National Recreation Association

Where Shall the Administration of a Recreation System Be Placed?

A RECENT report of the Educational Policies Commission of the National Education Association proposes: "That communities supporting several unrelated recreation agencies establish a recreation commission in order to promote coordination of programs and use of facilities."

The Educational Policies Commission "foresees the ultimate unification of all school, library and recreation systems in communities or areas of appropriate size under the leadership of a public education authority."

The leaders in the National Recreation Association very much appreciate the fine spirit in which the whole problem of recreation administration is faced in the National Education Association report. There has been increasing evidence of more satisfactory progress in recreation development under the recreation commission. The Association has not itself discovered evidence which would point to an ultimate consolidation of school, library and recreation systems. Always the Association has urged the widest possible use of school grounds and school buildings for community recreation purposes, but it has also urged the widest possible use of park and other city property. It is essential to think in terms of the needs of the men, women and children of our communities and of what will in the long run, under the human limitations which prevail in our thinking, mean most for our communities.

Already our school systems have attained such tremendous size that a very considerable proportion of the money raised in the local community through taxation is turned over to the public school system. There is serious question whether the additional funds necessary to meet recreation needs would ever be made available adequately and continuously under the school board or under an educational authority. There can be no satisfactory unification of recreation administration in a locality except as thought is given to the park system as well as to the school system. Many park leaders are talking about consolidation of recreation interests and are urging that what is now being done in recreation under school systems and recreation commissions and park boards be consolidated under the park board. For many years park boards have, in a number of cities, been administering public recreation, even caring for recreation activities on school property.

The present financial value of the properties given over to public recreation uses, aside from the school systems, in the cities, counties, state, and nation is very great. The management of the recreation properties and the recreation systems is in itself a very big task and one that is rapidly growing. To give recreation properties as well as school properties, let alone library properties, to an educational authority would mean soon—if not now—practically doubling the property to be administered by educational authorities, would mean that a very high per cent of the tax rate was being turned over to a single administrative unit, that a considerable part of the city administration was being turned over to one authority.

Advocacy of a public recreation commission is, an increasing number of recreation leaders agree, a step in the right direction, though the National Recreation Association itself is waiting until certain studies have been completed before making a final declaration. But the leaders in the Association do not at present have evidence which would point the country over to the ultimate unification of the recreation system with the public school system.

Recreation is a part of religion, of education, of health, of industry and business, of work. There is evidence, however, that recreation, abundant living in the larger sense, has become and ought to be a great, outstanding, major interest, side by side with religion, education, business, and labor. Religion, like recreation, should permeate all of life. Recreation cannot permanently be made a subdivision of any one part of life.

HOWARD BRAUCHER

AUGUST, 1939

August



Photo furnished by M. Boulonnois, Suresnes, France. Used by courtesy of Health Section Secretariat, World Federation of Education Associations

The Trek Back to Che-Pe-Ko-Ke

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL created by Congress to commemorate the passing of the Ordinance of 1787 and the establishment of the Northwest Territory afforded the Public Library of Vincennes, Indiana, the opportunity to combine education, inspiration and entertainment in its vacation reading project; to turn the pages and Trek Back to Che-Pe-Ko-Ke (meaning brushwood), the old Piankeshaw village which predated George Rogers Clark's capture of Fort Sackville (Vincennes) in 1779.

Once again CHE-PE-KO-KE had its portal open to representatives of various Indian tribes, and above the door of the council house (Public Library) was found the tribal totem of the turtle. Within its walls many conferences were held between the red and white men, as well as numerous secret meetings to which only Indians were admitted. The Warriors were divided into four tribes, Kickapoos, Piankeshaws, Shawnees and Miamis, tribes which had inhabited Indiana at some time.

At the time of registration each child was presented with a headband made to his individual measurements. For each book report he received a bright colored feather to attach to his head dress, a book scalp to dispel the spirit of ignorance, the scalp ceremonial being sacred with the Indian for it gave him control over the spirit life of his enemies.

When the project had been in operation for about two weeks the Indians started on the war path with a scalp raid, moving over

Another episode in the series of fascinating events through which one public library each summer makes books come alive for children on vacation

By JANE KITCHELL
Vincennes Public Library

Governor William Henry Harrison and Tecumseh, famous Shawnee Indian Chief, meet in Council



the downtown streets just at twilight to inform the community that their intentions would be peaceable if they received no interference from the public, but that they intended to scalp books with a vengeance! Braves, squaws, papooses, chiefs, medicine men, ponies, bareback riders, war paint and feathers were much in evidence, all carrying prayer sticks.

A Pow Wow was held each Saturday, presided over by chiefs and medicine men of the various tribes. Long before the hour, the beat of the tom-toms could be heard outside the library calling braves to matters of importance. A study was made of customs, tribal fidelity, games, music, ceremonies and festivals of these primitive people. From the Lamp of Fortitude they learned an Indian must "Be Brave, Play Fair, Obey, Be Reverent, Worship the Great Spirit, Be Kind and Joyful." This they recited with arms folded. Trips were made to historic places, Indian mounds, and council places going over the trail of old Che-Pe-Ko-Ke. The Public Library was removed one block, but two schools were within its boundaries.

On one occasion old Sugar Loaf Hill was again alive to the war whoop and the clang of the tomahawk, when some 300 braves assembled for their weekly Pow Wow, fathers and mothers doing their bit in transporting the children some few miles from the city. Each warrior brought his own lunch and the library contributed chocolate milk and graham crackers. After their hunger had been

satisfied the braves mounted the hill for a ceremonial, initiating a chief of the Kickapoos. They were told the history of the mound, which had no doubt been a temple three stories high, the vicinity being the center of a royal priesthood.

Chiefs and medicine men were elected each week on the basis of the most books read and the best reports. The medicine man was the most important man of the tribe. He was different, he carried a wand, a medicine bag presented by the library, and a tambourine, and sometimes he wore a mask. No one ever knew what was in the medicine bag. It was his most prized possession. Usually it contained dried grass and a charm which might be anything from a dried bee to a feather.

Attention was directed to the caravan of forty-eight men and an ox team which set out from Ipswich, Massachusetts, as a part of the Northwest Territory celebration, presenting "Freedom on the March," the second episode of which was the "Surrender of Fort Sackville." Its itinerary was to include Vincennes on September 12. Mayor Kimmell requested the float and children used in the parade staged at the beginning of the project to appear in parade of some sixty units.

The project culminated in the re-enacting of the famous Harrison-Tecumseh council of 1810.

History repeats itself. It is again August 10th, one hundred and twenty-six years later. The place, historic William Henry Harrison mansion; the setting, the banks of the Wabash. William Henry Harrison, impersonated by David Livingstone, aged eight years, and Tecumseh, famous Indian chief, played by Billy Eskew, seven years old, both sharing the honors for the number of books read, live again. Governor Harrison, judges of the Territory and a guard of twelve men from Fort Knox await Tecumseh, who has been summoned for a conference upon the veranda of the old mansion. Tecumseh approaches from the river, accompanied by about seventy-five warriors all in costume; he halts when within a short distance of the Governor. An interpreter is sent out inviting him to have a place upon the porch, saying it is a wish of the father. Striking a tragic pose, Tecumseh exclaims "My father, the sun is my father, the earth is my mother, upon her bosom I will repose."

The young Tecumseh gave a dramatic recital of the famous Chief's speech assailing the white men and Governor Harrison for their treatment of the Red Man. The council was held under the trees,

the Indians sitting upon the ground. The great Harrison arose with much dignity and poise, using verbatim the famous speech defending the white man and rebuking Tecumseh. During Harrison's speech the Indians picked up their clubs, with their eyes upon the Governor. General Gibson, fearing trouble ordered the guard to be brought up. Governor Harrison extinguished the council fire, telling Tecumseh that he had behaved so badly that he would not sit with him again.

After a lapse of twenty-four hours Tecumseh regrets his conduct, seeks another interview with Harrison, which is granted, and apologizes for his bad conduct, saying that he wished everything to be peaceable. The Indians then trail off, wrapped in their blankets, to the trees behind the mansion where an Indian ceremonial is conducted and the Peace Pipe is smoked. The ceremonial was conducted by the Sun Woman (Ruth Hartzburg), who had scored the highest honors of any Indian but unfortunately could not portray Harrison or Tecumseh. The Sun Woman was always noted for her wisdom, and many young squaws brought their papooses for her blessing. Ruth was certainly the wisest of all for she had read the most books!

When all are assembled the Chiefs of each tribe present their wands as a token of loyalty. The Sun Woman accepts them, commending each tribe, and adds her own staff to theirs as a symbol of her faithfulness to them, ever looking to their best interests. She invokes the Great Spirit to make them true and noble warriors. The peace pipe ceremony by Seton is then used. The council fire is lighted by rubbing two sticks together saying "This is a Council of Peace so we light the pipe of peace." Lifting the pipe toward the sky the Sun Woman invokes the wisdom of Wankonda, "Great Spirit," Mother Earth, Sunset Wind, Winter Wind, Sunrise Wind, Hot Wind—to which all the Indians reply "Noon-way" ("Amen, or this is our prayer"). In closing she tells the Chiefs to so lead their warriors that loyalty will shine in the wigwams of every tribe for "in union there is strength, in the bond of brotherhood there is peace. Go and the blessings of the Great Spirit go with you." The ceremonial was closed with the chanting of the Omaha tribal prayer and singing of "From the Land of the Sky Blue Water."

As a Book Week feature diplomas were presented to 325 Indians at a joint assembly of all

(Continued on page 302)

Lantern Pageants in the Making

IN TRACING the growth and development of lanterns on the Racine playgrounds, one must go back many years to the time when the playground leaders taught children how to make candle-lighted lanterns out of old shoe boxes. These shoe boxes, with designs cut into them, and backed up with colored crepe paper, were illuminated by small Christmas tree candles. Then came larger lanterns made out of carton boxes.

Following the era of carton boxes, larger lanterns, constructed by piecing together sticks covered with cardboard, came into vogue. The picture cut-outs on this particular type of lantern were placed on both sides of the box frame, brightened up by candles within.

In the Early Days

The city's first lantern parades were held on the individual playgrounds. Then, as the children's interests in lanterns grew, the making of extra lanterns for their younger brothers, sisters and for other youngsters soon became quite popular. The enthusiasm for lantern making and parading also captured the makers of larger lanterns. The workmanship of their original creations became so outstanding that an all-city playground parade was inevitable.

The delightful setting selected for the large gathering of lantern bearers was in one of the city's largest parks. The bowl-shaped park proved to be an ideal place, for it solved the seating problem. The time of the staging was shortly after twilight. The children, at a given signal from a gun, began marching around the grounds in single file. At another signal, each playground broke up into its own small circle. The final signal gave notice to fall in again for a grand march around the park. This march gave the judges and spectators a final chance to view the originality and workmanship of the pictured designs.

From a distance the scene resembled an invasion of glowing fireflies, but as one came closer the characters of comics appeared vividly in the glow of the burning candles. The pictures were

By JAMES MASIK
Boys' Supervisor
Park Board
Racine, Wisconsin

Lantern making and lantern parades are an old tradition on the playgrounds of Racine, Wisconsin. Each year for the past ten years candle-lighted lanterns have marked the climax of the summer season. The story of the development of the lantern tradition is an interesting one.

colorful, accurate, and recognizable. Futuristic, modernistic, colonial, Spanish, Indian, and historical designs, as well as recent personalities and other picture cut-outs were used.

Year in and year out for the past eight years the annual parades have been held, until within the past three years the all-city parades were discontinued, primarily because of inclement weather. At present, playground parades are held,

with neighboring playgrounds marching to a half-way mark and returning, or congregating at the most ideal playground for such an activity.

The newest lantern creation, which came into being last summer, is an indirect lighted lantern; it adds a thousand fold to color and beauty, reality and fantasy. The new lantern is just what the name implies—indirect lighting of the picture cut-outs by an arrangement of candle light on a blank piece of cardboard to reflect and illuminate the picture cut-outs. This modern lighting innovation made its first appearance in a Four-Part Lantern Pageant given by the children of two neighboring playgrounds. The lighted pictures were uniformly brilliant; the colors had greater richness, tone and quality; the designs were more exact and vivid.

A Four Part Lantern Pageant

The Four Part Lantern Pageant conducted by the two playgrounds was held in the open of a large wooded section of a park, and was conducted both on an elevated platform and on the ground. The pageant was divided into four parts: dramatization of Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"; "Circus on Parade"; "Lantern Varieties on Review"; and "The Parade of the Fireflies."

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Synopsis. Snow White and Prince Charming meet in the garden. She flies from the wicked queen and is found in the Dwarf's cozy house by the little men coming home from work. The Witch pays Snow White a visit. Snow White takes a bite of the apple as the dwarfs come rush-

ing home to chase the witch. The dwarfs in their sorrow walk the floor to be confronted by a new-comer, Prince Charming. He revives Snow White by kissing her. Rejoicing follows.

Program.

- Scene 1—Appearance of Snow White in the garden singing "Wishing Well." (Orthophonic recording.)
- Scene 2—Appearance of Prince Charming singing to her.
- Scene 3—Snow White is found in the dwarfs' cottage by the Seven Dwarfs. (Appropriate music to the arriving of dwarfs.)
- Scene 4—Dwarfs going to their work next morning leaving Snow White alone. (Music "Off to Work We Go.")
The Witch enters.
Dwarfs return to chase the Weird Witch.
- Scene 5—The Seven Dwarfs are prancing the floor.
The Prince appears.
Rejoicing on the arrival of Snow White.

Circus on Parade

The second part of the pageant was announced by a cut-out inscription, "Circus on Parade." The procession consisted of many animals and circus performers—monkeys, elephants, tigers, lions, clowns, and animal performers on blocks and balls. The parade was very picturesque, consisting of at least twenty lanterns or more.

Lantern Varieties on Review

The third part was announced as "Lantern Varieties on Review." This part of the pageant was devoted to all lanterns without a particular motif—those showing originality or intricate construction, or which were good in design. The most beautiful lanterns were found in this part of the program. The total number reviewed was thirty-five.

The Parade of the Fireflies

The climax of the pageant was the procession of small lanterns carried by the youngest children on the playground. The route of march of the children of both playgrounds took them throughout the woods that lined the edge of the park. The two groups, located across from each other, marched until they met, then separated and joined

the crowd. The intermingling of the lanterns among the people in the crowd proved very effective, giving the impression of one mass pageant in which every one played his part.

Some Hints on Construction

The frame or the box skeleton used in the construction of a direct or indirect lighted lantern is made from plaster lathes, a standard lathe measuring one and a half inches wide, about three-eighths inches thick and 48 inches long. In the frame of both direct and indirect lighted lanterns, the plan of construction is identically the same except that in the old or the direct lighted lantern there were two candle shelves supported by strips which are nailed on the sides of the lantern frame as seen in the diagram.

To construct one lantern frame, approximately 328 inches of lathing material and about three to four dozen lathing nails are needed. In the construction the skeleton is formed by taking four standard lathes for uprights, four twenty-four inch strips for vertical widths, four ten-inch strips for the vertical depth. The horizontal and vertical width pieces are nailed together to form two frames. The depth strips are then nailed to hold the frames together. This completes the box frame. Because the Manilla cardboard measures only 36" x 24", the frame openings, or the distance between the vertical width strips, are made 35 inches long, an allowance of half an inch on the top and bottom of the sheet for corner eyelets.

The skeleton must next be enclosed in such a manner as to keep the light from escaping through the frame. The texture of the material used for enclosing must be of a high reflecting quality so as to bring about a most desirable design illumination.

To cover the form or frame, it is estimated that about 1900 inches of cardboard are needed. The material used for covering the box is Manilla cardboard, which is yellow in color, making the cardboard fairly desirable. A cardboard that would be ideal is one of glossy finish with its brilliant reflection adding to the rich color of the designs.

In covering the lantern box, two pieces of 10" x 36" cardboard are needed for the sides, one standard size sheet 24" x 36" for the back side, while a small 10" x 24" piece is needed to keep the light from escaping to the ground. Tack all cardboard on the inside of the box, using small carpet tacks to fasten the Manilla cardboard. It

is very important to have cardboard taut in the process of tacking.

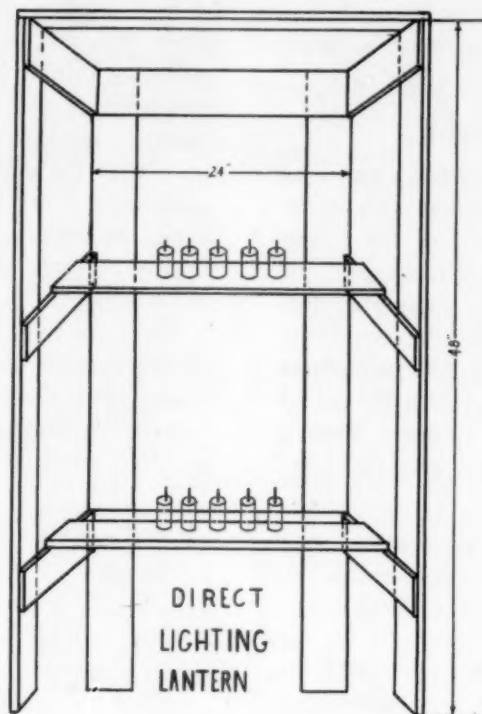
Lighting the Lantern

The source of the light which irradiates the lantern design is burning candles. The primary difference between the old and new type of lantern is the number of candles and their location in the box frame, as shown in the illustrations. The new type employs six candles, one candle in each reflector can, while the old type burns ten or more candles located on shelves within the box. The new method of placing candles in cans protects the flame from being blown out by winds and also tends to stop flickering of the candle light.

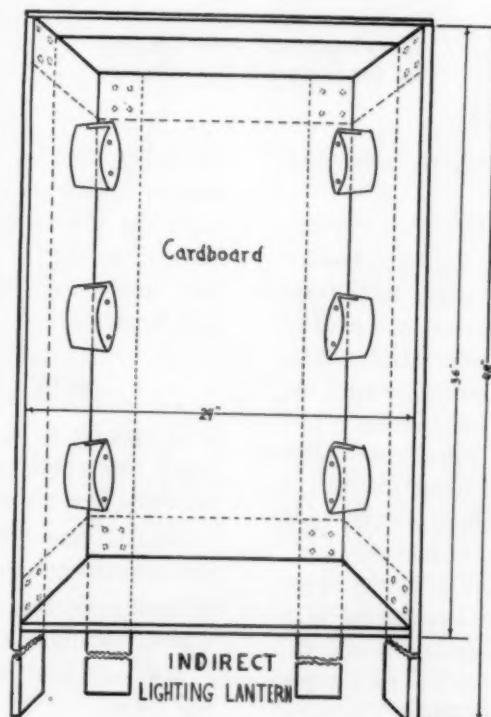
The size of the candles for the lanterns is determined by the type of program to be conducted. If a parade program is to be held, larger candles are needed. On the other hand, in case of a pageant program of shorter duration, a smaller candle is sufficient. It is estimated that candles one inch in height, one and one-eighth inches in diameter will burn from thirty-five to forty-five minutes.

The cylindrical-bodied tallow candles used in the cans are plumper candles that are purchased in three-inch lengths with a diameter of one and one-eighth inches. Two of three plumper wax sticks are sufficient for a long lantern program.

In the cutting of the candle care must be taken to see that the wax does not chip. A thorough heating



The diagram above shows the old type of lighting in which ten or more candles are used. The new type, which is shown below, employs six candles and provides for indirect lighting.



will help to avoid waste. Better still, a jig-saw will cut the candle without chipping. After the cutting has been completed and the wicks are deeply gouged out, the candle is ready for lighting.

The six reflectors aid most in bringing about a strong, steady, and uniform illumination. These reflectors are nailed onto the back horizontal strips in such a way as to reflect all the candle-manufactured light onto the back sheet where the reflection agencies brighten up the design. The reflectors are made of materials that will bend easily and will not ignite. Tin is found to be a very desirable material because it is flexible, resistant to heat, and can be penetrated by nails and cut easily with tin snips. Coffee cans are found most suitable for the purpose because the cans have a highly polished inner surface which gives off the maximum reflection.

For the lantern, six cans, five inches in diameter and three and a half inches high, are sufficient, three cans being nailed on each side of the back frame.

There are four operations the can must go through to become a reflector. First of all, a slot one by two inches long must be cut on the top side of the can for ventilation, and the lip may be turned up; secondly, the can must be sheared on the side that is to be nailed onto the back frame (this shearing eliminates the direct reflection of light from reflectors to

design); thirdly, the nail holes must be made beforehand; and last of all the can must be bent, making it oval-shaped to give off a wider ray.

The Problem of Decoration

The lantern pictures usually follow a motif as has been suggested, such as a pageant with separate parts, as in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" or "Circus and Variety Lanterns." In making these larger lanterns the designing, cutting, and pasting are done by older children, fourteen years of age and up. Many lantern pictures are made at the children's homes with the aid of their fathers and mothers. A stronger bond is thus formed between the home and the playground.

A few tools and materials are needed before the construction of a lantern is begun. These include a standard size sheet of Manilla cardboard, a yard stick, assorted colored crepe paper, paste, a pencil, razor blades, juvenile picture books, scissors, and a large piece of corrugated cardboard.

In selecting the pictures for the designs, the child must bear in mind whether he wants a silhouette or a picture with all its characteristics defined. Silhouetted work takes only a short time compared to a pictured characterization. The latter consists of as many as five different colors of crepe paper while the silhouette needs no more than two.

When the design or picture has been chosen, the drawing is sketched within a two-inch border of the entire sheet. After the designs have been sketched and the proportions checked, the cutting of the characteristics is next in order. Let us take for granted that a characterization picture of George Washington is ready for cutting. The borders of the hair, face, neck piece, coat collar and lapel, coat, and shoulder ornament are all cut out. But remember to keep intact a strip wide enough for crepe paper to be pasted on.

On the back side of the cardboard the crepe paper is attached. The first step in papering is to line the border of the characteristics to be covered with paste. Then the desired color of crepe paper is laid over that portion of the picture. A razor

blade is used to trim off the superfluous crepe paper. This method is used for all papering. The contours, wrinkles, buttonholes, and the eye and eyelids are pasted on the crepe paper in their respective positions on the face of George Washington. With the cutting, papering, replacement of wrinkles, and other details completed, the picture should be examined before a light for any overlapping of crepe paper, and for color harmonies and escaping light.

There are two methods of hanging the lantern picture cut-outs—either tacking the cut-out to the frame, as in the method used in the old type of lantern, or hanging them, as in the new lanterns, on hooks which are located at the corners.

On the four corners of the picture cut-out sheets, small one-eighth inch holes, about one-half inch from the outside edges, are perforated. These holes fit over right-angle hooks that are screwed into the corners. It pays to be very accurate in having the holes and hooks match, as this helps in eliminating the escape of light. The advantage of this system of hanging lies in the rapidity with which lantern pictures may be changed. The reserve pictures that are to be shown next are hanging on hooks on the back of the box frame. Two sets of hooks may also be used to great advantage in the back of the lantern, one

set being used to hold the new pictures, while shorter hooks are placed ten inches lower to receive the picture cut-outs that have already been shown. In staging a pageant, leaving the old picture cut-outs on the ground in a pile works out satisfactorily.

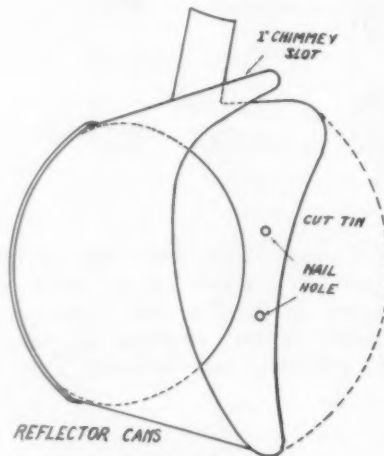
Pointers to Keep in Mind

In making an indirect lighted lantern there are many important pointers which should be considered. The main ones follow:

Nail the cans (reflectors) onto the frame before the box skeletons are enclosed with cardboard.

Sandpaper the candle spots to aid the candle wax in obtaining a firmer hold onto the metal.

Make all nail holes before nailing the can to the frame.



Very important in the lighting of the lantern is the reflector

Have the center of the flame directly above the narrow slot in the can, otherwise the top of the can will become carbonized. This blackening is against all principles of good light reflection.

In case blotches of light are noticeable in the picture cut-out while in the frame, trace the source and bend the can accordingly so that the candle light in reflection does not show on the picture cut-out.

If the bending of the can, as in the above pointer, does not correct the flame glow, shear off more of the tin on the can causing the trouble.

Before placing the candles in the can, burn them first for thirty seconds.

One of the requirements of fine workmanship in a lantern is the ability to keep light from escaping through the corners of the lantern. This is accomplished by tacking long two-inch creased strips to each corner.

A long creased two-inch strip of this kind is advisable on the front frame of the lantern.

Running a knife lightly down the center of the strip will make for a good crease.

To add to the improvement of indirect lighting in the lantern, old sheets of photographs or tin foil stapled on the cardboard may be used to create a richness of crepe paper colors.

The lanterns can be carried very conveniently by older boys by grasping the lanterns on the sides from the rear of the lantern. Long handles are very easily put on the lantern in case smaller children are to carry the lantern.

Make sure that the front frames are according to specifications, rather smaller in dimension than larger; otherwise light will escape.

For cutting cardboard, the use of single edge safety razor blades is not injurious to the hands. When the corners of the blades are dulled, they can be saved by sinking the corners into wood and breaking them off to get a new corner edge.

Picture cut-outs of intricate designs are usually a waste of time because of the inability of the distant spectators to perceive fine work.

A color wheel offers an

effective way of choosing crepe paper for the color combinations desired.

The larger the audience the larger the lanterns must be constructed.

The indirect lighted lanterns are very easily transported.

For dramatization of plays with lanterns a platform should be used.

From year to year, Mr. B. A. Solbraa, Director of Recreation in Racine, has suggested a collection of these lantern picture cut-outs would constitute a good library to be used yearly.

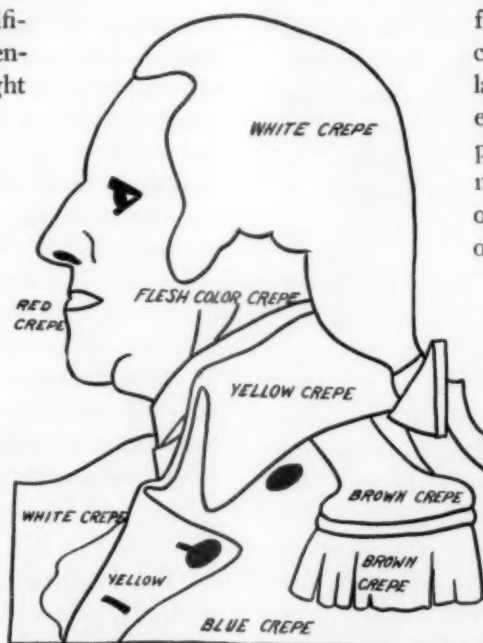
Small Lanterns

Little has been said thus far about small lanterns which are made and carried by the youngest children of the playground. A few ideas for making small lanterns economically, conveniently and successfully follow:

The small lantern may be round, square, spherical, or triangular in shape. The easiest kind for the children to make is either a round or triangular one.

The materials necessary to construct a simple triangular lantern consist of a piece of 9" x 24" Manilla cardboard; 36 inches of thin wire; small thin carrying sticks 18 inches long; two or three brad paper fasteners; one short candle of not more than one-half inch; razor blades; a yard stick; assorted crepe paper; and a piece of corrugated cardboard to cut upon.

A triangular lantern, as shown in the illustration, requires one-fourth of the 36" x 24" Manilla cardboard sheet—the sides of the lantern triangle being a scant eight inches with a one-inch flap piece, and the height of the side measuring nine inches. The length of the 9" x 24" is first marked off in scant eight-inch segments, leaving a flap wide enough for paper fasteners. Across the pencil-marked segments run a razor blade very lightly. This serves as a cut score, or good fold. The base of the lantern, which acts as the candle support, is a piece of cardboard cut in the shape of a "Y," the arms extending through



(Continued on page 303)

What They Say About Recreation

"TO POPULARIZE the fine arts, to raise the everyday standard of appreciation of beauty, harmony, and emotion in all expressions of the various arts and crafts, should be the first mission of artists who have benefited by study and contact with the world's fine things. The fine arts fulfill and justify their elevation by their universal appeal and character, even though expressed in a language that may not at first be understood by all people." — From *Art in Industry*, by John Woodman Higgins.

"The art of successful living is to transfer more and more of our profit taking to the realm of the non-competitive. There is no competition in the creation of beauty or the interpretation of truth. Instead of counting so much on diplomacy, economics and governments to make peace, we should turn to the potential contributions of art, literature, science and religion." — Dr. Ralph W. Sockman.

"The need for participation with ensuing self-expression is universal to all mankind. It is the modern explanation of why we play and it accounts for the great popularity of play today when a large share of work is so mechanized that the spirit has all been squeezed out of it. This newer understanding has been instrumental in greatly widening the scope of the play curriculum, because the individual thereby has added chance to find some outlet for his talents and to achieve prestige in the eyes of his fellows." — Elmer D. Mitchell in *The Phi Delta Kappan*.

"Bring to your life the best which the world has to offer in appreciation of literature, music, dramatics, art. Be sensitive to the lovely things of life. Discover your abilities. Develop your assets. Practice your new habits until you achieve success. Acquire skills, interests and appreciations which will make you an interesting person. As you thus make life richer for yourself, as you also share with others the best which you have to give, you will gain self-confidence and know the full meaning of happiness." — Ruth Fedder in *A Girl Grows Up*.

"I may safely predict that the education of the future will be inventive-minded. It will believe so profoundly in the high value of the inventive or creative spirit that it will set to itself to develop that spirit by all means within its power." — Harry Overstreet in *American Childhood*.

"We don't have to sell recreation in terms of some extrinsic goal. We can interpret it as it is. What it is is something that meets the basic needs of human beings. And we are striving to see whether it can also meet the needs of a democratic society. That is all. The needs are psychological, the needs are social, and the needs are egointegrative, having to do with the integration of the personality itself." — Eduard C. Lindeman.

"Can we content ourselves with a superficial skimming over the surface in mere smatterings of group dabbling in art, or drama, or music? We think not. Just as our physical program has grown until it challenges to the development of the highest skills of which we are capable, so every field of effort, every art or hobby is entitled to specialized technical mastery in its leadership."

—V. K. Brown.

"If through recreation you can help to build up the morale and health and soundness of the social order in your community, you are doing your part toward the preservation and protection of the United States as truly as if you were a doughboy in the army, and more so because it is constructive and not destructive, and because it lasts not merely during the war but forever. . . . People are thinking, wondering, how they can serve America. This is one of the ways. It is an important one. It is worth doing. If you do it successfully within your area and within the sphere of your personal activities and responsibilities, you will have done your part to make this nation standing as a citadel of freedom in a world where freedom has come too much to be despised."

—David Cushman Coyle.

"The justification for park expenditures must be found in the conditions of modern city life,

(Continued on page 303)

The Newark Museum Nature Club



Photo by Edward B. Lang

By EDWARD B. LANG
Science Department
Newark Museum

OUTDOOR NATURE STUDY is the interest of the members of the Newark, New Jersey, Museum Nature Club and the object of thirty or more outings that they take each year throughout New Jersey. With most of the outdoor areas of the state serving as their laboratory and classroom, they find that the first-hand study of natural history is a satisfying spare-time activity.

Representing many professions and economic levels, these residents of Newark and its suburbs have a common enthusiasm for putting on old clothes, packing lunches in knapsacks, and spending their leisure hours in tramping through the woods and fields with other people of kindred interests. All enjoy the exercise and companionship, but their greatest satisfaction comes with learning the names of the plants, the birds, or the rocks; with gathering specimens for their private collections, and taking nature photographs; with viewing the working of the laws of nature—the changes of the seasons, the migrations of the birds, and the metamorphoses of the insects.

The Newark Museum Nature Club is the outcome of an experiment by the Newark Museum, begun in 1933, as one phase of a spare-time activity program for adults that included painting, sketching, modeling, and stamp collecting as well as nature study. In organizing its nature group the Museum worked upon the premise that many people are

strongly interested in natural history but need some help to follow out that interest. The accuracy of this theory was proved by the response of nearly a hundred people to the initial series of lectures and field trips that surveyed the popular nature hobbies. An informal group known as the Adult Nature Hobby Group resulted.

Many of the enrollees dropped out as their initial enthusiasm wore off, but enough returned week after week to encourage a program the following year. To satisfy the overwhelming preference of the members for outdoor study, as well as their many diverse interests, more than twenty trips were arranged by the Museum in 1934. By the end of that year the group was well enough established to adopt a formal organization and take over the planning of its program.

While essentially a field organization, the Newark Museum Nature Club meets frequently at the Museum and in other ways keeps a close affiliation with the parent institution. As well as incorporating the name of the latter into its own, the club has written into its constitution the Museum's original policy of helping the layman.

Any person over eighteen years of age may attend as many trips or meetings as he likes

without obligation. As a result of this policy most of the activities are attended by several visitors, some interested and some merely curious, but many of whom return and eventually become members.

The trips are held on Saturday afternoons or Sundays on most of the week-ends of the spring and fall, a few times in the summer, and once or twice a month in winter. Frequent trips have proved necessary to include the many interests of the members in every year's program and to keep attendance within reasonable bounds. Last year's average attendance was thirteen—about the maximum number of people that most leaders can take care of with ease. Groups larger than this are unwieldy, the members tending to wander off in small groups and miss the information that the leader has to give.

The leaders are men and women who are well qualified in one or more branches of natural history, and who take pleasure in sharing their knowledge with others. Many are members of the club, but the majority are not affiliated—college professors, museum curators, members of scientific and nature study organizations, and business men and women with nature hobbies. These professional and amateur naturalists of Newark and its environs have cooperated wholeheartedly with the club and given to its members an education in natural history that could not be obtained by formal study.

The trips are more or less specialized in character, the subjects as well as the leaders being chosen according to the season and the members' preferences. Birds and flowers are easily the most popular subjects, and each is the feature of several trips a year. A fresh water swamp that lies a few miles beyond the city limits is visited every spring when it contains a considerable variety of ducks. The upland birds are studied on a "big day" trip taken at the peak of the May land bird migrations. A trip may be taken to the shore in the late summer, coinciding with the southward migrations of the sandpipers and

plovers, or in November when the waterfowl are moving again. The seasonal succession of the ferns and flowering plants are followed in a similar manner with trips in spring, summer, and fall.

Minerals follow closely in popularity, being collected once or twice a year at one of several quarries and mines that are near enough for one-day trips. Pond and stream life, including aquatic insects and plants, amphibians, turtles, and fish, is collected and studied at least once a year, while an insect collecting trip is an annual June event. Fungi, seeds, and fruits are popular as objects of research in the fall, and the identification of trees by bark and twig characteristics in the winter.

The unique attractions of winter make it possible to continue the field trip program throughout the year. Plaster casts of the tracks of raccoons, squirrels, and mice were made one snowy December afternoon along a frozen stream bank. Mosses, frozen solid by near-zero temperature, were collected on another occasion—with a geologist's pick! One of the most successful of the 1938 trips was a January outing for nature photographers. Twenty-eight people, carrying equipment ranging from box cameras to expensive miniatures, spent the day in Essex County's South Mountain Reservation photographing such diverse subjects as ice formations and insect galls.

Most of the club's trips are taken within a twenty-five mile radius of Newark. While this is a relatively small area populated by several million people, there is within its limits a wide variety of places of interest to the naturalist. There are two large parks within the city; a few miles outside are a state and a national

park, several county reservations, extensive tracts of farm land, a drained salt marsh, and hundreds of acres of fresh water marsh around the head waters of the Passaic River. Together these areas contain far more plant and animal life than the members of one nature club could learn in many years.

Several favorite localities within a few miles of the

"There are soul-stirring sounds in the spring. No mistaking them. The rustle of tiny animals building new nests or scampering out for a bit of food; the fluting of birds returned from their vacations, singing love songs, gossiping a bit, and house hunting. The waters, released from their frozen silence, now rush over stones and embankments, under bridges, over falls, telling a joyous story of freedom as they rush to the sea. The woods have a way of amplifying sound. There is, too, a deep, healing fragrance of the earth. Millions of buds are bursting to tell their story."—Lillian Cox Athey in *National Nature News*.

(Continued on page 303)

Music Forums

By MARGARET H. LETZIG
Secretary
Greater Little Rock Music Forum

A LONG WITH other progressive, urban centers of the nation's family, Little Rock, Arkansas, has of late been examining its "community consciousness" in several fields of activity—among them the development of a liking for worth-while and satisfying musical experiences.

Last spring, as a point of departure in the growth of its community music program, this southern city took an inventory of existing musical programs and opportunities for participants and on so doing, developed a highly acceptable and permanent contribution to the recreation field in the establishment of the quarterly music forums. So responsive has been the general public, as well as music lovers, to this new opportunity for self-expression and cooperative planning, that music forums are rapidly becoming a part of the community activity programs not only of the Capitol City of Arkansas but of communities in widely separated points throughout the state.

The Greater Little Rock Music Forum came into being in May 1938 through the efforts of the National Music Week Committee headed by Mrs. W. D. Jackson, Civic Music Chairman of the Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs and Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Little Rock Musical Coterie's National Music Week Celebration, whose endeavor it was not only to provide "just a week of music" but, to quote the very able chairman who is also a member of the State and National Music Consulting Staffs of the Recreation Division, Works Progress Administration, "to make a concerted attempt to integrate in the event, definite civic and philanthropic contributions to the musical life of the community."

As a preliminary to founding the forum, the National Music Week chairman listed all musical, civic, philanthropic, patriotic, educational, fraternal, religious and social agencies making use of music at any time. A survey, by questionnaire method, was conducted

through key persons in each grouping. The information obtained from this survey was used as a basis for organizing

the first music forum.

The organization of the Greater Little Rock Music Forum has provided along informal lines for the selection of a chairman to serve currently at each quarterly meeting. The only permanent officer of the forum is a secretary, a volunteer, who serves with the approval of the forum planning committee with sponsorship by the Civic Relations Committee of the Little Rock Musical Coterie, the oldest local musical organization and federated music club.

The governing or planning committee for the music forums includes members of the sponsoring Civic Relations Committee together with the presidents, chairmen or directors of all music clubs, departments or musical performing groups in the locality.

From many sections of the state came groups of music lovers to that first music forum, to band together for study of the community progress in music making, for mutual pleasure and advancement. "How to provide for musically and humanly more and more substantial and vital experiences by people" is the fine challenge to the music forum group, according to a recent analysis of the growth of the Little Rock Music Forum by Augustus D. Zanzig, Director of the Music Service of the National Recreation Association. Accepting as its special charge the guidance of similar group participation throughout the state, the Greater Little Rock Music Forum endeavored to start program planning and directing local talent from a point where the capacities and tastes of the community "already are."

Originating from the desire to foster a wider participation in community music as a fruitful form of group activity, and to increase that "liking" under the nurturing of fine, though however simple music, to the end that even with an inevitable and keen realiza-

OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUMS

- To discover, foster, and give direction to local talent in the field of music;
- To correlate musical activities of existing organizations and agencies;
- To extend musical opportunities to talent in the community—through festivals, concerts, radio programs and auditions;
- To take music "around the year" in the calendar of community recreation—through increased community participation.

tion of the shortcomings of the existing community programs they might endure, these music forums have resulted in the correlation of activities of the established programs and in the initiation of new and enlarged programs of musical activities, not only within the confine of Greater Little Rock but also within the areas of nearby State Parks and several surrounding counties of Arkansas.

The recreational music program in Arkansas as early as 1936 had the consulting services of Mrs. Florence H. Botsford, internationally known for fine folk song collections of all nations, who reminded the southern group that "the promotion of recreational music is a task requiring a knowledge of music science, and ability to stimulate in laymen a desire for good music. Since music ranks high as an industry in the United States, it is very important to cultivate this market through an intelligent program rather than through the desultory methods usually followed. We have watched the results of the program as carried out in the eastern states and have been gratified by the general cultural uplift, among thousands of people."

Profiting by this and similar advice, the community music leaders of Arkansas have endeavored to keep their standard high, not sacrificing ideals for the easier but more superficial work in program planning or talent selection.

National Music Week in May 1939 will witness the organization of numerous music forum groups fostered by the Civic Relations Committee of



Courtesy Little Rock Recreation Commission

The dancing of the Swiss Weggis was one of the numbers on a local program

local clubs affiliated with the Arkansas State Federation of Music Clubs. Out of these music forums, held first as discussion, and then as planning groups, it is expected that there will grow the Summer Music Activities Committees, just as there grew that volunteer civic committee in the Capitol City of Arkansas, which, during the summer of 1938, under the auspices of the Little Rock Recreation Commission, sponsored four major summer music festivals and a closing summer playground festival bringing together volunteer professional and amateur talent in the fields of music and dancing, enhanced by bits of outdoor pageantry, to entertain large and enthusiastic outdoor audiences at the City Park Band Shell and the Little Rock High School Stadium.

For years there had been a series of band concerts each summer at the City Park, but the Music Activities Committees en-

larged the additional five programs to outstanding proportions. Orchestra and band music, folk dancing, community sings, specialties, novelty acts, solos and stunts, together with especially organized choruses from industrial, choir and spirituals singer groups, crowded the programs.

Agencies which became enthusiastic over the summer music festivals through participation in the Greater Little Rock Music Forums included: Civic Music Association; Civic Relations Committee, Little Rock Musical Coterie; Civic Committee, State Federation of Music Clubs (also Radio, Philanthropic and Music in Industry Com-

mittees); Division of Recreation, Works Progress Administration; Federal Music Project, Works Progress Administration; Little Rock Recreation; Directors of High School Bands; Teachers of Public School Music; Private Music Teachers; Choirs and Choral Groups; Arkansas National Guard Military Band; Musicians Union; Woman's Chorus, Rural Home Demonstration Clubs; Music Committee, Little Rock Council Parent-Teacher Associations; Community Center groups; Music Committee, Young Women's Christian Association; Leaders Association, Little Rock Council of Girl Scouts; Quapaw Area Boy Scouts; Boys Glee Club, Young Men's Christian Association; Music Departments, Little Rock and North Little Rock Boys Clubs; Orchestra groups; Arkansas Amusement Corporation (commercial motion pictures); Artists Series Concerts; Federal Forum Project; press and local Radio Stations.

Local business firms and merchants generously contributed decorations for each entertainment held during the summer. The musical instruments, street car advertising, printed programs, screens and projectors for community sings, special lighting effects and public address systems, transportation and refreshments for performers and other aids were contributed by dealers.

Supervision of the facilities were provided by the WPA recreation leaders, assistants to the Little Rock Recreation Commission. The City Police and Fire Department and the Parks Committee of the City Council gave valuable assistance.

During the extremely hot summer months, four of these evening music festivals in the cool outdoor setting of the City Park Band Shell, invited the attention of thousands of Little Rock's citizens who came afoot and by motor to applaud the efforts of that small group of enthusiastic committee members who were striving to develop a community taste in music which will demand that the technical quality of its programs be constantly improved in order that they may not become too feeble or mediocre to survive the competition with in-

numerable other pastimes that attract the public notice.

The summer music festivals, each with a special chairman, gave opportunities for a wide variety of local talent under the able chairmanship of Mrs. Dot Kennan, Director of Service and Professional Projects, Works Progress Administration of Arkansas, with supervision of the Federal Music Project; Mrs. R. E. Overman, wife of the city's mayor, 1939 State Civic Music chairman of the A. F. M. C. and long a director of the Little Rock Civic Music Association, and Mrs. Bertha Kirby Nelson, president of the Little Rock Musical Coterie, who is herself an accomplished pianist and assistant to Mrs. Frank Vaughan in her local booking agency for Artist Concert Series and other current musical attractions. These capable community leaders gave tireless efforts to putting across the summer music program, and literally "rolled up their sleeves" and went to work not only to secure professionally recognized artist numbers, but community choruses and folk dance groups as well.

Proof of the local interest in the summer music festival was attested by the capacity audience which crowded the July program at the Little

Some of the recreation leaders at the music institute held at Onachita National Forest



Rock High School Auditorium. This presentation, scheduled for the plaza of the Arkansas State Capitol building, was, due to inclement weather, removed indoors, where despite the mid-summer heat the seating capacity was exhausted and more than 2,000 persons from all walks of society were turned away.

Increased attendance was recorded also at the already established series of eight summer band concerts, arranged by the Little Rock Civic Music Association to employ local musicians from funds contributed annually by local business firms.

Since Arkansas embraces a large part of that national playground, the beautiful, scenic Ozark Hills and mountains, no more picturesque spot could have been selected for sunset concerts and sings and Indian summer music festivals than the majestic, boulder-strewn plaza of The Lodge at Petit Jean State Park, Morrilton, Arkansas, and the pine-encompassed waterfront of the man-made Lake Bailey reposing atop this same mountainous elevation in the heart of Arkansas' foothills. Musical talent from seven surrounding counties and from Fort Smith and Little Rock voluntarily came varying distances from over one hundred miles to a few miles away to participate in the sunset programs. Over two thousand visitors were enumerated by the State Parks Service on those occasions. Quoting from the remarks of the chairman of the State Parks Commission these musical programs were considered: "the very best type of entertainment that we have been able to offer in any State Park in Arkansas." Music and pageantry were also presented by community effort in cooperation with the State Parks Service and the Division of Recreation, Works Progress Administration, in other sites of State Park System. The musical offering of "El Bandido" at Crowley's Ridge State Park at Walcott, was so enthusiastically received as to lead to plans for additional presentations during the coming season.

The October Music Forum of Greater Little Rock chose for its ensuing occupation "the correlation of all fall and winter music activities" in the civic life of this area. The Monthly Music Calendar, calling attention to all major musical events, to dramatizations using musical accompaniment, to radio programs employing musical background as well as the weekly and monthly programs and practice hours of musical organizations and units and hours of appreciation courses, made its appearance following the fall

meeting of the Greater Little Rock Music Forum. With welcome regularity the calendar, compiled by the Forum Committee, is issued and distributed through the music committees of the Little Rock Council of Parent-Teacher Associations, local civic clubs and through the Little Rock public schools.

Early in the autumn season all the local dance orchestras presented a large combined dance program at the Rainbow Gardens under sponsorship of the local Federation of Musicians—the professional union group. The beneficiaries of the dance were Little Rock Symphony Orchestra and the Little Rock Civic Music Association, whose eighth annual presentation of its Christmas program, "The Messiah," followed shortly after. In this were combined for the first time choral groups from several central Arkansas cities.

November, December and subsequent months witnessed the inclusion of more music in the monthly programs of civic, social and patriotic organizations, giving increased opportunities for the discovery and presentation of local talent. Musical revues and tableaux sponsored by local civic clubs have attracted capacity crowds, and at the Christmas season there was a renewed interest in the significant religious note in seasonable music programs.

The living municipal Christmas Tree was planted and dedicated to the strains of Christmas carols in special arrangement by the Brass Choir of the Little Rock High School Band. During Christmas week over 1,000 children's voices from the Public School Music Departments for the first time re-echoed in massed singing on the portico of Little Rock's expansive and imposing Senior High School building.

Sunday afternoon audiences at concerts by the varsity orchestras and bands and choral groups have been increased when a note of variety has been added to the programs following open discussions at the Music Forums. The Arkansas State Legislature at its 1939 closing session sat attentive and appreciative to the sustained notes of the A Capella Choir of the Little Rock High School. Good music is indeed becoming a vital part and parcel of the experience of the general populace of Arkansas.

Revival of American folk lore and the teaching of European folk songs and dances through leadership training groups under the supervision of the Little Rock Recreation Commission, the Little

(Continued on page 304)

Safety on the Playground

IN PLANNING the safety features of the summer playground program, the emphasis is constantly laid by the leader on devising methods of presenting the subject in a way which will make it interesting and vital to the children through their participation in the program in constructive ways.

In many cities activities of various kinds are being included in the program. Some of these are a part of the daily routine; others are introduced periodically as special features.

The program which has been used on the playgrounds of Reading, Pennsylvania, is typical of many of the methods employed.

Specific Activities

Daily inspection of playground equipment by the leaders, assisted by a committee of children. Rules should be posted for the safe use of each piece of apparatus.

Appropriate safety posters placed on bulletin boards and changed at regular intervals. Pictures for the posters may be cut from old magazines.

The election of a safety committee of children to serve for a definite period of time. Their duties should be:

- To assist leaders in inspection of equipment

- To assist in the collection of safety posters or other appropriate material for the bulletin board

- Preparation of safety plays and pageants to be presented on the playground.

- Use of publicity which will inform the community of the part played by playgrounds in the prevention of traffic accidents to children.

Duties of Children's Safety Committee

To inspect daily grounds and apparatus for possible accident hazards such as:

- Projecting nails, splinters or other sharp or rough places on any of the apparatus

- Loose bolts or nails in the apparatus

- Apparatus—broken, cracked, or worn so as to be unsafe

- Bracing of swings

- Broken glass, bottles, boards, etc., on grounds and in sand boxes.

- To assist the director in enforcing safety rules

- To help in the regulation of general playground

activities and games so as to avoid accidents. The following precautions are suggested:

- Keeping small children from apparatus other than pieces intended for their use.

- Keeping older children away from apparatus reserved for younger children

- Keeping children from running into the street after balls

- Seeing that spectators are kept well back from such games as baseball and volley ball.

The Program

Safety songs, plays, games, talks, and a poster making contest may be used in developing the program. Parents of the children should be asked to attend the meetings and the special safety events.

Safety Clubs

How to Organize Clubs. Call a meeting during the first week of the playground season. Previous to this meeting post a notice of the meeting on the bulletin board and have posters calling attention to the purpose of the meeting.

At the first meeting the objectives of the club should be clearly explained to the children and their interest and cooperation secured, if the program is to be a success. After the objectives have been clearly outlined, the eligibility and club requirements and pledges to be taken should be carefully explained. The children are then asked how many wish to join.

Eligibility. Any boy or girl between the ages of eight and sixteen years may become a member of the club by repeating the pledge at a regular club meeting.

Requirements. Regular meetings should be held once a week during the summer playground season, the time to be decided upon by the leader and the major in charge of the clubs. Each playground may have as many clubs as the leader and the major can organize, but club membership should be limited to ten members including the major, captain, lieutenant, and sergeant. No dues are to be collected.

The major, who must be at least fourteen years of age but not more than sixteen years old, should be appointed by members of the club. The major

(Continued on page 305)



Courtesy Cleveland, Ohio, Metropolitan Parks

Have you ever set forth on a voyage of discovery to find the resources of your community and the country surrounding it? You will be amazed and delighted at the treasures you will come upon. So don't fail to plan summer day trips for playground children and for the adults as well.

By JULIA ANNE ROGERS
National Recreation Association

To See What They Can See

LIKE THE BEAR who went over the mountain, playground children enjoy short trips and hikes "to see what they can see." Scenes that are commonplace to adult eyes are interesting and sometimes amazing to little people looking on them for the first time. Short hikes may be planned which their elders, too, will find fascinating. The resources of almost any locality are well-nigh inexhaustible; adults are constantly surprised to discover such treasures as picturesque covered bridges, historic houses, secluded waterfalls, rare trees and unique crafts colonies in territory comparatively near their own homes.

By all means schedule a few trips in the summer playground program, keeping in mind that each hike or trip should have an objective, good leadership, and adequate preparation. The objectives should never be pursued doggedly to the exclusion of enjoyment of the hikes. The list of possible objectives which follows was taken in part from the projected playground hike program of St. Paul, Minnesota, for the spring and summer of this year.

Objectives

Trip to study plant life. To stimulate interest in plants, flowers, shrubs, trees and grasses—their forms, habitats, and methods of growth.

Trip to study wild life. To encourage interest in the appearance, habits and natural haunts of animals, birds, reptiles and insects—and the interdependence of these creatures and human beings. One form of wild life may be taken as an objective on a single trip, if desired; for example, bird walks, or butterfly walks.

Trip to study a stream or brook. To demonstrate how streams act upon their surroundings, what animals and plant life they support and to show their place in our great natural drainage system. Such a trip often follows the bed of the stream.

Trip to study rock formations and fossils. To interest hikers in how rocks are formed and types of animal and plant life recorded in sedimentary rocks.

Trip to a farm or ranch. To acquaint city children with some of the common domestic animals, and to show how foodstuffs are grown.

Visit to zoo, state fishery or natural history museum. To interest hikers in various types of animals, fish and birds, and to emphasize preservation of wild life.

Trip to see a ball game or other sport. The group is taken to a neighboring playground to witness an inter-playground game. Or it is taken to a



Courtesy Essex County, N. J., Park Commission

As your playground groups go hiking through nearby parks they will discover such beauty spots as this

Visit to airport, seaport, railroad terminus or canal locks. To familiarize hikers with methods of shipment and transportation and with construction of airplanes, engines, ships and locks.

Trip to national, state or municipal park. To demonstrate how to prepare an outdoor meal with or without utensils—how to build a fire for cooking—what safety rules must be observed in regard to persons, property and nature.

professional baseball game or other sports event. Objective, greater knowledge of the game.

Visits to historic spots and birthplaces of notable persons. To encourage interest in history, biography and old customs; to demonstrate architecture and costumes of earlier periods and to show the advance in our standard of living. Visits to Indian mounds or Indian relic museums are favorite trips of this kind.

Visit to a fort. To demonstrate the purpose of forts and the development of our national defense.

Visit to a fire station. To demonstrate how communities are protected against fires by scientific fire extinguishing apparatus and by fire prevention codes.

Visit to a radio station. To show how stations plan and send out their commercial, educational, entertainment and news programs.

Visit to a city or town council meeting. To enable groups to observe town or city governing bodies in session, and to follow parliamentary procedure.

Visit to crafts shop, Indian reservation, industrial exhibit or factory. To demonstrate parts played by art and science in turning raw materials into usable articles.

Visit to a post office. To show how United States mail is collected, classified, sorted and distributed.

Organization and Leadership Suggestions

Hiking may be promoted as a club activity, or it may be enjoyed by unorganized groups assembled for the purpose. It is recommended that separate hiking groups for boys and girls under fifteen years of age should be maintained. The boys' groups will be led by men, the girls' groups by women. The boys and girls of sixteen years and over may have combined hikes if there is a qualified leader available—one who is the comrade type, able to guide the group tactfully into desirable types of activities. Such a leader must be fully aware of his responsibility and the importance of such matters as strict observation of hours of return.

There is much to be said in favor of two-leader hikes. On a two-leader hike, one leader may act as guide and pace-maker; the other is free to watch details and to handle such minor emergencies as splinters in fingers so that the hike as a whole may go on undisturbed. Where the hike's objective is a specialized one such as geology or entomology, it is sometimes possible to secure an expert outside volunteer leader. (The playground leader, of course, always goes along as official shepherd of the flock.) The expert guest leader adds definitely to the prestige and interest of a hike. Hikers will never be tempted to regard a nature trip as unimportant after they have accompanied, for example, an enthusiastic bona fide botanist with his cherished specimen box. Don't hesitate to invite really distinguished persons to lead hikes. They can always refuse, but often

they are pleased to comply. Another type of guest leader that may be an asset to a hike is the dyed-in-the-wool hiker, the woods lover who would rather hike than eat and knows every trail by heart.

Preparation for the Hike

Preparation for a hike includes a reconnaissance of the ground in advance by the leader to estimate time and to note all the points of interest. The director of a recreation center must approve all details of a hike before it is undertaken. The hike should be advertised well in advance, on posters on the bulletin boards, in the playground newspaper—and in the local newspaper, if you like. Announcements should state the objectives of the hike, the time of meeting, the length of the hike in hours and mileage, age groups involved, and expense, if any.

Estimate the ability of your walkers and plan a trip easily within their powers. Every effort should be made to confine the trip to the age group intended. By sending notes to parents mentioning details of the hike and emphasizing the age group invited, a leader may avoid most of the "Here's my little sister. Can she go too?" difficulty. Parents appreciate these notes; with them should be enclosed junior hikers' permission-slips for parents to sign.

The matter of carfare should be thought of. If a local transportation company or a local civic organization has been persuaded to arrange for free transportation of hikers to the point of departure, state in all announcements, "Free transportation through courtesy of the Blankville Rapid Transit Company, (or the Blankville Civic Club)"; but if hikers are expected to provide their own carfares, state the amount in the announcement.

Every leader knows what suitable clothing for country hiking is; but many underprivileged people do not possess proper shoes and sports clothes. Such hikers have to do the best they can, after receiving tactful guidance beforehand in the matter of attire. Armbands or playground caps, made by the children in handcraft classes, are a help to a leader in keeping track of juvenile ramblers and the children love to wear them.

For short hikes, the question of special equipment is not so important as on long excursions. Even for short hikes, though, a leader may wisely take along a first-aid kit containing bicarbonate of soda, tincture of iodine, gauze bandage and safety pins, and blunt scissors. Added to this may be a supply of paper towels, paper cups, a compass and a jackknife, and, of course, the indispensable whistle.

Food is a good picker-upper on a hike; dried fruit, nuts or chocolate bars are easiest to carry. But if the trip is to involve cooking out, have food ready to transport in knapsacks. If the goal is a farm, or a park with cooking facilities, it may be possible to have the food sent ahead to this point, thus eliminating the necessity of carrying bulky parcels. The subject of food is amply dealt with in "Day Hikes" listed at the end of this article.

Preparing the hikers for the hike is a part of the program to which it is worthwhile to devote one or more periods on days preceding the hike. The objectives of the hike should be discussed in group meeting. With the aid of pictures, books, maps and specimens, pre-view the terrain to be explored if it is to be a country trip, discuss the wild life, talk about the historical periods represented by old landmarks. (For example, you might prepare for a pilgrimage to an ancient mill by studying its history, its architecture—native stone, hand-hewed beams—and suggest that hikers invite a certain old inhabitant of the region whom somebody in the group knows to meet them at the mill, explain its workings, and tell stories of the old days.) Get ready to acquire specimens



Courtesy Essex County, N. J., Park Commission

by having the hikers prepare in crafts class collecting-apparatus—nets for catching insects, shoe-boxes with holes punched in them for transporting said insects. Poison ivy deserves mention in any preview of a country ramble. Show pictures of it and call attention to it when on the hike.

In preparing for a hike, pass around a compass in the group and explain it. One veteran hike leader always displays his pedometer, a gadget worn on the ankle to measure mileage, which hikers invariably find amusing. For a country tramp buy a Geodetic Survey map of the locality you intend to visit. (These maps are obtainable from book stores or from the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C. Price twenty cents). One of the hikers will carry the map and mark the route as you go. While the map-minded folk of the hiking group are discussing routes, the musical and poetic contingent may go into a huddle and compose a special hiking song. Tunes such as "Over Hill, Over Dale" (Caisson Song), "Funiculi, Funicula," or "The Foot Traveler" lend themselves to the walking rhythm.

On the day of the hike, just before you set out, assemble the crowd, count noses, and issue brief instructions. These instructions, where children are involved, should concern obedience to the blowing of the whistle, behavior suitable to the place visited, and—for a country hike—the rules of the open road.

On the Hike

On a country walk, young hikers will skip like lambs; they will sniff the air, and prance, and roll in the grass. Much of their play is the aimless enjoyment of their quickened senses. A wise leader, realizing that this exuberance is the choicest gift that the day will offer them, will not try to pin down the frolickers to activities until they are ready for them. But when the first excitement has worn off, and before boredom sets in, then the leader may direct attention to the birds, the trees, the flowers and the animals. Make the most of whatever the vicinity has to offer. One group of Rochester, New York, children, climbing the face of a cliff, discovered a stratum of natural clay. They stopped then and there to fashion objects of the clay, delighted to find out how clay is obtained. Another group of children found a hollow tree, and the procession could not move on until every last child had climbed in and out. Palo Alto children on a hike explored a small cave, with the aid of candles.

There are so many country pleasures—such as skipping stones in a pond, and learning how to produce an unearthly screech by holding a blade of grass between one's fingers and blowing on it—and there is often small time for games. Active games played on a hike may be of the very simplest order, such as choosing a tree and letting each player, in turn, throw a pebble at it, scoring points for hitting it. Such games as Duck on a Rock, Bull in the Ring, Cat and Rat, and Three Deep, are often enjoyed in the interludes of hikes. If you are sending food ahead of the hikers by automobile, you might also put into the car some game equipment. For example, a dart game, made by the children as a handcraft project, may be included. Archery is a traditional woodland sport which is always popular; some fortunate groups will have sets, made in woodworking class, which they can take along. No leader will need to be reminded that a softball, a bat, and a few beanbags will earn their space in the carryall car.

When the wanderers settle down for a rest, the making of willow whistles and the constructing of dolls out of pine cones, acorns, twigs or other available materials will keep adults as well as children absorbed. (There is a bulletin, issued by the National Recreation Association, price ten cents, that suggests ways of making dolls of natural materials.)

Another happy occupation for the rest period is storytelling. Nature fables (particularly the Greek fables) go well on such occasions. Fairy tales, Indian legends, pioneer stories—all these seem to fit into the outdoor background. Good poetry is sometimes well received by children in surroundings of natural beauty when it would otherwise be meaningless. Outdoor dramatics of the impromptu sort may often be successfully indulged in. Possibly the children will feel moved to pantomime the fables of Icarus, Atalanta or Theseus and the Minotaur, or some local legend that captures their fancy. If the children have been initiated into the fun of choral speaking at the playground, they may want to "do" a poem against a background of echoing hillside. Group singing need hardly be mentioned, it is so natural and inevitable an expression of outdoor freedom and happiness.

Indirect Results of the Hike

A good hike furnishes material for many a playground and home project and hobby. Shells,

(Continued on page 306)

Salem Builds Swimming Pools

WOE TO THE mother hen whose brood of ducklings chances to find a pond of water! And sad, too, the plight of the worried parent whose child starts out on a hot summer day to look for a cooling splash in pond or stream! No matter whether the stream be polluted or the river filled with "holes" and eddies, anticipation of a plunge in the refreshing waters dispels all fear and caution. What community near such unguarded danger spots does not have written in its pages of recreation history heartbreaking tragedy and regret?

Five years ago Salem saw its golden opportunity to provide a safe swimming program to replace the mill stream and river of the past. It came about in this way:

Federal agencies (S.E.R.A. and C.W.A.) offered to supply the assistance in labor necessary to build two

By SILAS GAISER
Superintendent of Schools
Salem, Oregon

splendid pools, strategically located in two parts of this city of 30,000 people. A school board, civic-minded and recreation-conscious,

assumed the obligation for the capital outlay to make these projects possible. On the grounds of a junior high school and the senior high school there was ample space for pools, and here the projects took form. Pools and bathhouses were completed on both sites, amid ideal surroundings, not only for swimming, but for a complete recreation program. Picnic grounds, playgrounds, baseball field, school buildings for indoor activities—all these help make the setting complete.

The dimensions of the pools are 100 x 45 and 110 x 55. Each is located in a heavy center of school population; in fact, the two pools are on the sites of two general recreation and school areas of the city. The pools are

A free swimming period at one of Salem's municipal swimming pools

(Continued on page 306)



Wanted—a Public Relations Counsel

By JOSEPHINE BLACKSTOCK
Superintendent of Playgrounds
Oak Park, Illinois

IF A ROCKEFELLER, a Walter Murphy, Santa Claus, or a New Dealer were to ask me what gift I would like best for the Oak Park Playgrounds, I would say "a public relations counsel." I would say this because one of the most important elements lacking both in our recreational philosophy and program is an intelligent understanding of the attitude of the public towards us. As recreation executives we don't know enough about what is the mine-run of the public's thinking. We have not reconciled recreational knowledge with public opinion. Or, in other words, our program and objectives need interpreting to the public in social and economic terms and the public's wishes need interpreting to us.

For this we need a public relations counsel. What is this hypothetical counsel and what is its job? Briefly, he is a morale builder, a middle man, an interpreter. His job is to bring our policies into line with public opinion. His first step is to analyze the recreation department's program and objectives on the basis of the knowledge he has secured from the study of the relationship of the recreation program to the community. He must know the function of the department and draw up, with the cooperation of the chief executive, the policies of that department. It is important to know that this morale building begins at home. The counsel "devises and modifies circumstances," as someone has put it, "before they become word and deed." He is responsible for the attitude of the workers toward their executive; of the executive to the workers; of the workers to the public.

We have not had a clear policy of our own; here is where, in my opinion, we have most failed. We are "fuzzy-minded" about the matter. So we have some of the great business firms of the country built up this morale, this "enlightened self-interest," that the companies have received tremendous dividends in loyalty and efficiency, and the workers as important ones in well-being and happiness. I see no reason why recreation systems cannot pay similar dividends. They are owing our Boards, owing our-

selves as executives, owing our staff.

A major job of this counsel is to acquaint himself with

every form of contact with the public, with all avenues of approach, whether they be booklets, posters, newspapers, magazines, letters, motion pictures, radio, lectures, photographs, drama, or personal contacts. This means knowing his subject. It means applied psychology. It means understanding attitudes of mind. It means retaining a clear picture of the nature and range of aptitudes. Here again we might well borrow from the experiences of great business firms. General Electric invented the House of Magic—we saw it at a Century of Progress. Today there are thousands of people pouring in every week to Schenectady to see these dramatized products. The same company is always feeding the newspapers with technological news stories about such discoveries from their laboratories as plastic heels for women's shoes or a microscopic film to make glass invisible. The papers can't get enough of these. Couldn't our recreation counsel do a lot along a similar line? What human interest stories we have if we were only alive to them! Knowing his psychology, he would aim at the emotions with trained accuracy, knowing that in children and their concerns he has "the great tribal appeal to the protective emotions."

Rockefeller Center knew its psychology when it built a sidewalk superintendents' club, a covered place for people to watch a large excavation project. Oak Park did the same thing last week, building a bench with an awning cover, where people could sit and watch the demolition of the old postoffice and the erection of a new building.

A meat packing concern persuaded a group of doctors to announce that people should eat heavier breakfasts. The consequences were that many more pounds of bacon were bought. What about a similar statement that grown people need more active play? To borrow a business term, we are dealing with a buying public—a public buying ideas from us instead of bacon or electric light. These people think dif-

Perhaps we can't all have a public relations counsel on our recreation staff, but there's nothing to prevent our dreaming about it, and we might even be counseling ourselves in a small way! This article suggests some of the things which might be done and the values to be hoped for.

ferently as citizens and as parents, as someone has pointed out. The counsel must reach both sides for this thinking of theirs results much more from their everyday experiences than from what they are told in print. The counsel must know the underlying motives that impel people to thought and action. He must know what people wish to know and have, both in a recreation program and in the manner of dispensing it, and then get it to them with the special stamp, the viewpoint, the policy of the recreation department he represents. He is out to capture public opinion and that is a tremendous job, for people today are doubtless tak-



Courtesy New York City Board of Education

There is need for the community to know more about the ways in which its recreation program is providing satisfactions for children. A public relations counsel could help here.

ing a more intelligent interest in their government service than they have ever before, but they are taking a more *critical* one at the same time. As recreation executives we need to know more about what the community as a whole is thinking of our project; we *must* worry about our standing with the public.

What sort of person must this counsel of public relations be? Bernay, the foremost public re-

lations expert of this country, is of the opinion that he must have a broad education, strength of character, an objective mind, the ability to convince, and a knowledge of psychology. He must be wide awake to new trends and ideas. *American Cities* magazine thinks that "most community programs fail because public opinion is shaped from the outward (publicity) rather than the inward (public relations) starting point." It is rare if the entire program is coordinated and balanced so that a complete picture of the service in relation to its cause is continually before the public. No matter how competent the service may be and how

complete, the job will remain unfinished until the extent of the service is made known to the public. It works both ways. If an individual citizen is proud of his city government the municipal employee can take pride in it, and if the latter has pride in his work he will have the right attitude in his contacts.

We are learning more and more the fact that the impetus for recreation comes directly from the people rather than from the recreation department. In other words, the important thing about recreation is what it does to the player, not what we do to him so that unless we have the good-will and understanding of the community, unless we have made clear to them in plain terms just what are our policies, practices, and purposes, we have failed in our job. This hypothetical public

relations counsel must be alert to indications of public opinion; at the same time he must realize that we must create public opinion ourselves. Here is where the hardest part of his job comes in. How is he to dramatize the department he works for?

In Oak Park we have worked out one method to give a complete picture of all the Village services to our community. We are writing a sketch showing the various departments—water, fire, health, playground and others—in action, showing the day's routine. Social as well as dollar-and-cent facts will be shown in the answers. We will use the Chinese property man to make our

(Continued on page 308)

Our National Parks

OUR NATIONAL PARKS are areas of superlative scenery, which are set apart and maintained by the Federal Government for the use and the enjoyment of the people. They are the people's property, the Government acting as the people's agent and trustee.

These parks are distinctly an American institution. The national park idea had its inception in the United States, the first of such parks having been established here in 1872 by Act of Congress. Today the United States has twenty-five national parks. The best of our natural scenery and our most interesting scientific and historic places are retained in public ownership for the benefit and use of all of the people.

The history of the social use of lands is interesting. Always in the early days, as one traces the rise and fall of nations, organized government meant organization for the ruling few. The choicest lands were reserved in princely gardens and forests for the mighty of the world. Heavy, almost inhuman punishments were meted out to persons of humble station who shot a bird or four legged animal in a well-stocked preserve maintained for the shooting parties of the lords of the manor.

Cornelius Hedges, a lawyer of Montana, advanced the thought that the individuals forego personal gain in order that the region, so unlike anything else in the country, be reserved as a national park for the benefit of the people for all time. As a result, Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872 as a pleasuring ground.

No consideration of commercialism enters into park creation. The major function is the promotion of the well-being of Americans through the health-giving qualities of inspiration, relaxation, and recreation in pure, unpolluted air, in natural surroundings of inspiring grandeur.

Most of the national parks have public camp grounds for motorists bringing their own camp outfits. The grounds are equipped with running water, modern scientific conveniences, outdoor

By **PHILIP L. SEMAN**
General Director
Jewish People's Institute
Chicago, Illinois

fireplaces, electric lights, and places to wash clothes. These are under the close supervision of park authorities. Safety and freedom from annoyance are assured. No charge

is made for camping privileges.

Connected with the town road system and leading into and through the parks, excellent systems of roads have been established. These parks have many trails, and contain within their boundaries thousands of miles of trails and footpaths, reaching the surrounding mountain summits and traversing every valley. The systems are so designed that the inclination of every type of walker is met. Broad lowland paths offer delightfully easy walks. Winding trails of easy grade to the mountain summits are provided for those who like a moderately strenuous climb, and rough, mountainside trails give opportunity for hardy exercise to those who enjoy real hiking. It is only by means of these trails and paths that the parks can be thoroughly seen and appreciated, and the system is so laid out that there is no danger of becoming lost. While no guides are necessary on most of the park trips, free guides may be obtained at the information office in many of them, adjoining the park office, to accompany parties either riding or hiking.

In many of the parks there are motor and boat trips provided by the park system for which a moderate charge is made. Many of the parks have opportunities for excellent fishing in fresh waters of lake and stream. Even deep-sea and coastal fishing identical in life and character with those of the famous banks which lie off shore, adjoining a number of these parks. The parks provide power boats, sail boats, canoes, and camp outfits, with competent guides, at very little cost.

Pre-eminence of the national park service as the leader in the recreational field reached new heights during the last year with the establishment of new parks, the continuation of emergency programs, and the enactment of legislation providing for nation-wide surveys of areas of interest

In April, 1937, Dr. Seman gave an address at a National Youth Administration institute on "What the Government Can Do and Should Do for Communities in the Field of Recreation." A number of developments have marked the progress of the service of the National Parks since that date, but because of the background which Dr. Seman gives of the history and program of the National Parks, we are presenting a number of extracts from his talk.

from the recreational and educational standpoint.

Public use of national parks have pointed to the need of an expanded system. Visitors for the past travel year number over ten million. All possible encouragement is given to the development of snow and ice sports in areas suitable for such use, in accordance with the popular demand.

Foremost among congressional legislation affecting national parks was the act providing for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects and antiquities of national significance, which empowers the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a nation-wide survey of historic buildings and sites and makes it possible for the Federal Government to acquire those determined to be of sufficient importance to warrant such action.

A study has been made to determine the recreational possibilities of Boulder Dam, under which the National Park System would cooperate with the Bureau of Reclamation in planning the recreational development along Lake Mead, the largest artificial lake ever created, extending as it does 115 miles beyond Boulder Dam. In the meantime, the National Park Service has supervised recreational development on the lake with the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

One of the interesting phases of the expanded program of recreational development undertaken by the National Park System in cooperation with the State Park Authorities and State Planning Boards, has been the development of forty-six land-use projects designated as recreational demonstration projects. With Re-Settlement Administration funds, nearly one-half million acres of land were in process of being acquired at a cost of approximately five million dollars. The areas are being developed as federal projects through the cooperation of the Re-Settlement Administration, the Emergency Conservation Work, and the Works Progress Administration, either for additions to state systems of parks and recreational areas as concrete demonstrations in the better use of certain rural lands or for federal administration in connection with some existing unit of the national park system. The forty-six projects located in twenty-four states are readily accessible to thirty millions of people. The majority of the projects are planned for the organized camp needs of major metropolitan areas. It is expected that at least ten organized camps,

each with a capacity of from 100 to 125 campers, will soon be in operation.

For the purpose of determining the progress of the local park movements during the five year period ending in 1935, the National Park Service, in cooperation with the National Recreation Association, inaugurated a nation-wide study of municipal, county and metropolitan parks. The result of this study is proving of great value to park and recreation movements, and meets a real demand on the part of state and local park officials for such up-to-date information.

The Federal Government, through special grants, provides for the publication of posters calling attention to the availability of parks as vacation areas.

The broadcasting program of the Service, through the courtesy of the National Broadcasting Company, presented a series of thirteen programs, covering the major Western parks, over a national hook-up during the spring months. A marked increase in the demand for park publications followed this program.

During the past year, approximately 270 statements on national park activities were prepared in the Washington office for release to the press. These covered broad phases of national park work. Appropriations for the national park systems during the past year amounted to eighteen million dollars. Of this amount, the sum of sixteen million dollars was authorized in the Interior Department Act of 1936.

Thus, literally hundreds of millions of acres are set aside for this purpose — supervised, financed, and directed through government sources. This reveals that the Federal Government has for over one hundred years looked upon opportunities for play of every type, largely of an outdoor nature, as an essential part of its public social service.

"To measure the national park movement in terms of progress per annum can at best be a matter of accounting only in fractions, since the movement goes steadily on year after year, eternally producing combinations of results. . . . After all else has been said, there will still remain the fact that the year's work is simply to keep the park movement in adjustment with the one fundamental which makes it so indispensable—that recreation in the full sense of its meaning is indispensable to life."—George L. Collins and B. H. Thompson.

Centers for Girls

By ETHEL BOWERS

Field Secretary in Recreation for Women and Girls
National Recreation Association

THE LEISURE time activities of girls from inadequate homes, especially little girls six

to ten years of age, are being neglected by all agencies during the school year in most cities. Homes may be inadequate, not only because of poverty but also as a result of overcrowding; ugliness; lack of comfort, warmth or homelike atmosphere; and because of social inadequacy, emotional and economic insecurity. Thus even girls from wealthy or comfortable middle-class homes may wish to spend the greater portion of their leisure time away from the family or may be unable to play or entertain even their girl chums at home.

Especially girls from the crowded older sections of cities, commonly called "The Flats," "Across the Tracks," "Down by the River," "The Gas House District," often feel socially inferior because of the section in which they live, their clothes or general appearance, their way of living, the occupation of their parents, or their relief status—and they do not take advantage of opportunities offered them outside of their neighborhood. Usually we find very few Girl Scout troops or Camp Fire groups in these crowded neighborhoods. Often these girls cannot stay after school to participate in Girl Reserves or other high school extracurricular activities because they must return home to help mother, care for younger brothers and sisters, or work in some other family caring for young children. In two instances girls of twelve years ran away from home just because they were overworked by dictatorial parents while other girls had time to play. When a girls' center was established in the neighborhood, these girls went there in the evenings after their work was done and found the fun and companionship they craved.

If there is no settlement or similar agency serving such a district then the recreation department should work toward establishing centers which are attractive to girls in the middle of each natural

neighborhood. Boys will go further for their recreation and demand more spacious facilities,

and parents will let boys cross railroads, bridges and traffic arteries when they will not permit their girls to go more than a few blocks from home, and then only to such places and leaders as are known and approved. Therefore, several small, well-placed centers for girls are more effective than one huge community center.

Please do not misunderstand. We are not proposing segregated centers for girls, but rather small centers or parts of centers planned mostly for girls and for controlled co-recreation activities, with the boys going to the nearest athletic centers for their most vigorous games. We believe thoroughly in cooperation from the earliest years, feeling that the only natural normal way is for boys and girls to play together constantly so there will be no emotional upset at the mid 'teens. However, co-recreation in certain sections presents difficulties such as limited facilities, difficulty of supervision, problems of discipline and inadequate leadership, and lack of training for boy-girl relationships.

For convenience we will call this recreation project a girls' center though in fact it is more of a spirit, an ideal, a philosophy, than it is a building or a program. A girls' center may be conducted in one room or several rooms of a larger community center, the rest of which is given over to general community recreation programs, or it may be in a building of its own. Four factors must be provided for a successful girls' center; leadership, facilities, program and cooperation. With all of these provided on a per-

manent continuous basis, a girls' center gives girls who are living an unstable existence one thing at least to cling to, and helps to give them a slight sense of security. Of the four, the most important is leadership.

Leadership

The recreation director first must have the vision

The author, in describing girls' centers as they are established in some recreation systems, defines them as "any homelike places where girls, especially those from inadequate homes, may drop in at any time and find activities to enjoy alone or in groups, frequently on a co-recreational basis; and where they may receive training for homemaking and life situations under the leadership of charming hostesses and part-time workers—all of this made possible through the cooperation of lay women's groups and municipal recreation departments."

of what a real girls' center can do, then find a mature yet youthful woman who can catch the vision, to be the permanent director of the center. A real woman leader can create a girls' center spirit anywhere if she is given a free hand, some cooperation and a place to call her own. She may be the only full time worker paid with municipal funds, all others may be volunteers, part time leaders or specialists or leaders loaned by other agencies. The others may come and go, but she should be a permanent worker, year round, every day, if she is to be a real stabilizing force in the uncertain lives of these girls. Girls need a sense of belonging, the guidance of a charming cultured woman, the inspiration of a real leader, during formative years. The director must be all this.

The girls' center director must first of all be a hostess. It will be her personality, her tact, her way of meeting and greeting the girls, her joy, the friendly atmosphere which she creates, which will turn the "drifter" girl into a "joiner," and change the loud, poorly-trained girl into a charming young woman, the self-conscious girl into one of poise; which will help the handicapped girl get the thrill of success, and guide the growth and development of all the girls so that they feel confident in taking their rightful place in Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Girl Reserves, high school extracurricular activities and the business world, fortified with a sense of values that will protect them from errors of character or judgment so often resulting in ill-chosen associates, hasty early marriages and low homemaking ideals.

It scarcely matters whether the girls' center director is an activities leader or not, though a knowledge of music, dramatics, handicrafts, homecrafts and social recreation are assets, especially when volunteers fail to arrive. She should be a *leader* in the finest sense of the word, a creative inspirational leader, with some knowledge of club activities and ability to work through others, "leading from behind" preferably. Some of the best girls' center directors are women who have been married, who have gained tolerance, poise, sympathy and understanding

which young unmarried women often lack. Most important of all, she must have vision, ability to inspire the other workers and the girls themselves with some of her own enthusiasm, ideals and objectives.

The other workers, paid or volunteer, should have as many of these same hostess-leader's qualities as possible. In any event, they should be *leaders of girls* first and *technicians* second, for the music, dramatics or dancing skills which the girls learn are not nearly as important as the improvement in the girl herself, her dress and appearance, her behavior, voice, character, objectives, standards, vision and outlook on life.

Part time leaders are usually paid by the hour. They may be young married women, older women formerly teachers or other leaders whose children are now grown, college girls working for experience and credit in soci-

The girls of America—fun loving wherever it is to be found; serious for beauty; eager for companionship; is your city doing to meet the



ology courses, young college graduates on the substitute list of the superintendent of schools, other young women irregularly or partially employed or temporarily unemployed, or workers loaned by other agencies. In some cases regular school teachers are used, but not more than two sessions a week and only if they are real leaders with a *recreational* attitude, and only if they can come to the girls with real enthusiasm. Older girls of the neighborhood or a member of the Big Sisters, an organization of outstanding high school juniors and seniors, may be used in a volunteer capacity. Adult women with leisure and a desire to serve are also used as volunteers in many girls' centers. Some are as dependable and enthusiastic as paid workers; others serve best on special projects, helping with parties, leading Charm School or Hostess Club discussions, cooperating in outings or trips, or serving on the

—fun loving—seeking happiness
found; searching for adventure,
or companionship with boys. What
to meet the needs of these girls?

projects, helping with parties, leading Charm School or Hostess Club discussions, cooperating in outings or trips, or serving on the

Council, (to be described later), in securing cooperation and supplies. The success of the volunteer workers depends almost entirely on the ability of the director of the girls' center.

Facilities

A superior woman leader can create a girls' center almost anywhere and under great difficulties, but if some suitable facilities are provided her work is easier and her energies are freed for other problems.

Facilities for a girls' center should be homelike, a little better than those found in the homes of the girls of the neighborhood. Atmosphere can be created at little expense by the girls themselves and the Council, or a mothers' club, all working together. This has been done in Milwaukee in school basement rooms some of which were originally coal bins. First of all the room was made attractive by scrubbing and plenty of paint.

Then came bright-colored curtains, interesting cretonne wall hangings, second-hand furniture, redecorated and reupholstered by the girls themselves, cupboards, shelves and boxes, brightly decorated by an art class in the Russian peasant designs, and electrical wiring and lamps, done by the boys or dads' club, with shades made by the girls. Books, magazines, phonograph and records, radio, piano, rugs and bric-a-brac, all were contributed by girls or adults, while games and vases and paper flowers were made in hand-craft classes. Money was raised to buy pots and pans, dishes and silver. Soon the girls' center was homelike, softly lighted, comfortable, efficient, a cheerful place for every beauty-loving girl from any inadequate home.

A girls' center can be made anywhere by energetic leaders and council members. The poorest one the writer visited was a girls' basement toilet room in an abandoned four-room school building. The plumbing as old as the building, was still functioning, but it had been partitioned off by wall-board. The rest of the room, about 20x15 feet, was cheerful and practical, with its bright paint and curtains, table tennis and other games tables and



Courtesy Sioux City, Iowa, Department of Recreation

benches, piano and attractive 6'x6' stage in an alcove. For parties, shows and tap dancing classes the tables were moved out into the hall. Vigorous games were played outdoors on suitable days and a co-recreational dancing class was taught in an upstairs office after office hours. The rest of the well-balanced girls' center program and game room was conducted in

the bedlam of this one crowded room. Using what very inadequate facilities they had, these women leaders had created a small but really alive girls' center.

School rooms can be used as girls' centers, especially if they are turned over exclusively to the recreation department, but their use often presents problems. School basement rooms usually have unsightly pipes and meter boxes and are either too cold or difficult to ventilate, and with cement floors are often dusty. Upstairs school rooms are better from the health standpoint, but with their high ceilings and big windows and usually the inevitable blackboards, they are difficult to decorate. Moreover, schools are closed on holidays, usually no heat is provided over weekends, and there are other factors which militate against the use of these buildings.

In instances where difficulties prove insurmountable, the problem may be met by turning an abandoned school building, apartment or old residence into a homelike girls' center as has been done in Columbus, Indiana, and Mount Vernon, New York, and by securing the cooperation of the superintendent of schools in obtaining the use of near-by school gymnasium, auditorium, and swimming pool for special events or scheduled weekly activities. In this way the girls have a sense of belonging to their center, the women members of the Council have a personal interest in the center and its furnishings, yet the girls have the use of school facilities when they need them for active games and large gatherings.

In selecting facilities for a girls' center, it is wise to remember that the little girls will be leaving it late winter afternoons after dark and older girls will attend evening activities. Therefore it should be located on a well-lighted street but not

Look at your program for girls from September until June. Does it satisfy you fully? Are you reaching girls intensively or just giving them "busy work"? Are you serving the little girls from inadequate homes both extensively and intensively, every day of the entire year?

Have you trained women workers who work in one section of town day after day, year after year? Or do you shift your workers to different playgrounds in the spring, summer and fall, and to winter community centers? If you do, that is one way to ruin any organized girls' program.

Look at your indoor facilities. Are they homelike, attractive to beauty-starved girls and women? Or do they repel sensitive people!

on a traffic artery, in a residential neighborhood in the heart of the area of crowded, inadequate homes, which we wish to serve or equidistant from two such neighborhoods if one center must draw from both. It should not have adjacent to it garages, parking lots, lumber yards, factories, railroad yards, cemeteries, unlighted parks, cheap hotels or boarding houses,

for these may create problems.

Many very successful girls' centers are in adapted facilities, especially rented apartments or in halls or old mansions. The latter are the best because old woodwork, fireplaces, beautiful stairways, kitchens and other facilities help create just the atmosphere we want. If such a mansion, well located, cannot be secured, a first floor apartment which is typical of those in which the girls live is an excellent substitute, preferred by some leaders because in it we can show the girls how to make the most of their own facilities at little expense.

Some centers have a complete model apartment—at least living room, dining room, kitchen, for all cooking and homemaking classes, Hostess Clubs, small club parties, etiquette classes, knitting classes and other group activities concerned with homemaking. This apartment should be inexpensively yet tastefully furnished to serve as a good example to girls who are contemplating marriage and homes of their own on small budgets. The facilities must suit the program and in a girls' center the main emphasis is on girls' interests and their preparation for womanhood and homemaking.

Such a center was developed in Mount Vernon, New York. This girls' center is a rented five-room and bath flat, the counterpart of hundreds of flats in the neighborhood. The front room is a lounge-library, furnished as is any comfortable living room, with piano, radio, phonograph, easy chairs, soft lights, bookcase, davenport, rugs and curtains. All club meetings, special lectures, discussions, knitting classes, small tap dancing classes, music groups, in fact any activity which would not harm the furnishings, are held here. Between times girls are encouraged to use it for

lounging, reading, listening to phonograph or radio, or informal piano playing.

The original dining room is now a table game room with tables and benches of various sizes for all ages of girls. The kitchen is freshly painted and bright with red and white checked gingham curtains and red pots, pans and other kitchen ware.

What was the bedroom is now the handcraft room with rough tables and benches. Under windows on one side are built-in storage benches in which are the dolls and doll furniture for the tiny tots' play. Along interior walls are simple built-in cabinets for handcraft supplies. Sewing machines and an ironing board in a closet complete this utilitarian room which also is cheerful with paint and inexpensive curtains.

The final room is a ten by ten foot glass-enclosed back porch or sun room which has a round central dining room table and chairs. This room is used for everything and anything, dining by the cooking class, table setting by the Hostess Club, dramatic play by the tiny tots, rehearsals, committee meetings, overflow quiet games or handcraft groups, parties and so on. Although the whole flat probably does not exceed twenty-five by forty feet, as many as eighty girls sometimes attend for general activities in a single afternoon, or for an entertainment program. For athletics, swimming, large dancing classes and dances, the public school facilities are used by special arrangement. Thus for about \$25.00 a month rent a small girls' center has unlimited use of homelike facilities, equipped by an active lay women's sponsoring board.

Another club, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, is making excellent use of two long narrow rooms about twenty by seventy feet. Such facilities can never be as homelike as a house or an apartment but offer more floor space, and each room can be supervised by one worker. At the front of the first floor is the lounge, and table games section; in the middle are the table tennis and noisy games; and in the rear the cement floor is cleared for active games, races and dancing classes. Upstairs, in the front, is the library, storage room and lavatory. In the middle

is the handcraft section and the rear has a small stage for dramatics and programs. In the cellar a small kitchen has been made by using plywood partitions. Hundreds of girls can be accommodated in these spacious, though noisy, two rooms and kitchen. Schools are used for basketball, large gym and dance classes.

The Program

In many respects the girls' center program does not differ from the usual public recreation program, including such things as children's rhythms, folk and (if necessary) tap dancing, singing and rhythm band, storytelling, simple dramatics and puppets, the usual handcraft and art classes and, if possible, outdoor or indoor playground games, gym classes and tumbling. These classes are unusually well conducted in most girls' centers with creative leaders and high standards rather than in the usual "time-filling" way.

The two main features of a girls' center which are not usually found in community centers are "drop in" activities and the homecraft classes and clubs.

It is important for girls from inadequate homes to have a place in the neighborhood where they can drop in any time on Saturday and any time week days from 3:30 until 8:00 P. M. (for those under 12) and until 10:00 P. M. for older girls. Girls have more home duties than boys so that often the only time they have to play is from after supper until bedtime. Many girls from inadequate homes do not have even a bureau drawer to call their own, to say nothing of a room or bed of their own. They have no playthings, only hand-me-down clothes, no place to play in an overcrowded, noisy flat, no place to study lessons, nothing to do and no place to go, too thinly clad to

stand on the streets the way boys do and not vigorous enough usually to be as continuously active on cold winter evenings as the boys in their street, alley and vacant lot play. So they need some place to drop in, *when they want to*. Thus every girls' center should have at least two rooms—possibly three—available at any time the center is open. These in-

Look at your community centers. Are they athletic centers only? Do the boys drive out the girls? Do the girls have a place they can call their own? Do they have a sense of "belonging"?

Look at the lay women of your city. Are they actively interested in girls' work, especially in the work of the recreation department? Are you harnessing the tremendous forces of women's organizations to improve your program for girls? If you feel that your program for girls and women needs strengthening, read this article carefully, and give copies to women members of your recreation commission, to officers of women's clubs, parent-teacher associations, and other women's groups who should be helping.

clude the lounge-library for reading, studying lessons, just resting, knitting and very quiet games; and the noisy game room for table tennis, jacks and other seasonal games, table, floor and wall toss games, radio listening, phonograph playing, piano playing, and if space permits, for general free play, racing, chasing and noise-making. Girls too must blow off steam and this is the place to do it. If possible there should be a third room with an abundance of cupboards and storage benches in which are kept dolls and doll furniture, playing house equipment, costumes and dress-up clothes. In this room the little girls may select what they wish to play with and play together quietly in make-believe play so dear to the hearts of little girls. Some centers use this room for serious classes and open it only on certain afternoons for little girls playing house. In other centers this equipment is kept in the noisy game room where the girls may play. It is so much better when a separate quiet room is available for this dramatic play.

Homecraft is a very important part of the girl's center program which should be started *early*, preferably at six years of age when girls are so enthusiastic about imitating mother and doing things about the home. One of our most thoughtful girls' leaders says "*We start too late*, when a girl has put on her war paint and gone on the man hunt, to teach her serious homemaking skills. She has too many counter attractions; she is interested in things outside the home, not in sewing, cooking, cleaning, child care. We waste a golden opportunity when we give the little girl 'busy work' instead of using that white-hot flame of eagerness to learn homecrafts between six and twelve years of age."

Therefore, a graduated creative homecrafts program is conducted in some girls' centers starting at six years of age in many of the groups, using dramatic play and "playing house" as a means of teaching scientific homemaking methods. Some of the courses and clubs are:

- Homemaking, with doll furniture at first
- Interior decorating, with dollhouse at first
- Child care, with large doll and doll furniture at first, and later with little sisters and real furniture
- Home care of sick, with little sisters and real furniture
- Citizenship, Children's Village with doll furniture
- Sewing, making own clothes, starting at six years, and machine sewing at nine years

- Cooking, starting at nine years
- Hostess Club at about twelve years
- Emily Post Club at about fourteen years
- Charm School at about fifteen years

From these courses it is a natural step, as the girls' interests unfold, to clubs and to co-recreation activities. Begin with activity parties with boys, such as roller skating or hiking, then lead into open house game nights, social dancing instruction and Saturday evening dances, dramatics, and music. In fact, there is no reason why the girls' center should not be co-recreational every evening after 8:00 o'clock, and the lounge-library and game room could be open to boys and girls at all times if space permits and *if the boys do not drive out the girls*.

In addition, the girls' facilities are frequently used up to 3:30 P. M. by many women's groups for all kinds of meetings and parties. Handcraft classes, quilting clubs, mothers' clubs, child health lectures, baby clinics (twice weekly in some places), and even daily play school are common. If such extensive use is made of the facilities, additional storage space for equipment and janitor service is necessary. Needless to say, the activities in the evenings after 8:00 P. M. are for senior high school girls and those out of school and unemployed, or irregularly employed. Girls' centers usually do not try to reach the girls who normally go to the Y.W.C.A. but continue to serve the neighborhood girls who grew up in the center and their boy-friends.

Cooperation

If the recreation director and his commission are thoroughly in favor of the neighborhood girls' center idea, and the recreation budget is large enough and flexible, then there is no reason why one or more girls' centers should not be started in existing facilities without further delay. Yet even with such ideal conditions, which are seldom found, the cooperation of an interested and influential group of lay women on a girls' center council will do much to improve the facilities and deepen program and make the way easier for the director of the center.

No recreation director need wait for a complete budget to start a girls' center if he is as ingenious as several such directors who have already started without any money. Here are some of the steps to be taken in establishing a demonstration center.

How to Go at It

Study the crowded neighborhoods.

Determine in which the needs of girls are greatest.

Check with other agencies and workers to see that no other agency is serving these particular girls before starting a new center.

Improve present programs and facilities to create a girls' center spirit, if at all possible.

If nothing is being done and much needs to be provided, then call together a group of influential and intelligent lay women. Present the problem to them. Take them for a ride through the needy area. Have case workers and policewomen talk to them.

Let the idea of serving this neighborhood grow in their minds. Ask for their suggestions. Present your own ideas modestly. Don't force an elaborate plan on cold or disinterested group.

Get the most enthusiastic women to do something at once, such as looking at what facilities you have to offer, searching for better space which may be rented, visiting real estate departments of banks to see what mortgages they have taken over, talking to wealthy old residents who may own property in the neighborhood or know of estates holding property. In the meantime see if the city owns any buildings in the district or has taken any over for non-payment of taxes.

Before taking further steps, get the full cooperation of the recreation commission and organize a girls' center council of those women showing the greatest personal interest. Have this small council prepare a plan and present it to representatives of all women's organizations in the city. One group of women did this at a tea and a month later at a second tea organized a coordinating council of representatives of thirty-three women's organizations to "promote and protect the interests of girls and women." In another council, similarly formed, each member organization pays annual dues according to the size of its membership, which gives it the privilege of having meetings and parties in the girls' center, making it practically a women's

club up to 3:30 P. M. as well as a girls' center afterward.

After finding the facilities for the first girls' center, if the rent must be paid the council members should find twelve individuals or organizations, each to give one month's rent, some agency to pay for the coal, another the light bill, another to provide for janitor service and cleaning women. Frequently the city through one of its departments can provide light and heat as a part of its regular service to its buildings and janitor service through Home Relief or other welfare divisions.

Having found and secured the facilities, the next step is to put them in order. In this the recreation director usually takes the initiative, as was done in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where the city electrician attended to all the wiring, the city plumbers, painters and carpenters, even the street departments and parks, were persuaded to cooperate in lending men and equipment, while the women's council raised money to buy the new materials needed by the workmen.

In the meantime, every woman and interested organization is on the lookout for furnishings and supplies of all kinds. Women with husbands who are leading merchants are especially valuable in securing cooperation stores, getting salvage and decorating materials and lowest prices on really fine furniture which has been damaged or ex-

(Continued on page 308)



Courtesy East Orange, N. J., Board of Recreation Commissioners

"Accent on Youth"

CONSCIOUS of the growing realization of the importance of an "early start," the public Recreation Commission of Davenport is inaugurating a new series of programs designed especially for the elementary school child. This series beginning on March 11th and continuing for four consecutive Saturdays through

April 1st, will bring to the youngsters of the community thrilling drama, dancing, a sprightly operetta, and beautiful symphonic music.

Unfortunately, a love of music, drama, and dancing is not always accompanied by corresponding talent, but all children may derive pleasure from "exposure" to these arts, and this pleasure may be enhanced by a study of their appreciation. The vital fact to remember is that youth is the time for study and exposure. Curiosity and talent, when nurtured from an early age, may have a chance to flower.

Curiosity and imagination are prominent traits in children. When wisely guided they may be turned toward the development of a happy childhood, and ultimately toward a more complete enjoyment

A municipal recreation department believes that children should have an early start in making contacts with good music, drama and dancing

By ROBERT L. HORNEY
Superintendent of Recreation
Davenport, Iowa

of adult life. Why not give these future Mr. and Mrs. America's a real chance to come in contact with good music, drama, and dancing?

Isn't it true that a good taste, cultivated in a child's early years, creates a steady appetite later?

The Recreation Commission of Davenport believes it will, and so it is offering a free series of entertainment by local talent, held at the public high school auditorium where pupils from the nineteen elementary schools, ten parochial schools, and the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, will be guests of the Commission. Since the seating capacity of the auditorium is limited to 1,200 persons, passes will be distributed to the various schools according to their enrollments. The administration of each individual school then may determine their distribution. Local Boy Scout troops will serve as ushers. The curtain will rise at 10:00 A. M. on Saturday, March 11th, when the Davenport High School orchestra, a group of fifty-three young musicians who have already won state-wide acclaim, will present the initial

(Continued on page 309)

The advanced children's group practicing for the last program of the series





There are very many points of interest in historic Boston and its environs which delegates to the Twenty-Fourth Recreation Congress will wish to visit. A number of them are enumerated in this article and tentative plans are outlined for some of the tours which are being planned.

Boston Awaits You

YES! THIS YEAR IT'S BOSTON.

The Twenty-Fourth National Recreation Congress will meet in Boston from October 9th to the 13th. Again the recreation leaders of America, men and women who have devoted their lives to providing better play facilities for the nation, will gather to discuss the great movement in which they have pioneered.

Recreation planners from all parts of this country and from abroad will meet in historic Boston, where they will review past progress, discuss present problems, and build for the recreation world of tomorrow. Yes, it is Boston, the Boston of many memories, and the Boston of the thousand present-day interests which will welcome the 1,500 delegates to this important nation-wide Congress.

The city that is dominated by Bunker Hill Monument, that abounds in tablets commemorating historic events, the City of the Boston Tea Party and of Paul Revere's Ride, of the Old North Church and of Faneuil Hall, will be the host of the 1939 gathering.

Boston is a city of many surprises, as well as many memories. The forefathers sleep in graveyards such as Old Granary and Kings Chapel, which are snuggled at the feet of high office buildings. Everywhere in

Boston the city of today is linked with the city of yesterday. Its memories are as old as the cow paths that still can be traced wandering through the down-town section and that form the pattern for its narrow streets; and they are as varied as the lives of the early settlers. They form a composite picture of Pilgrims and Puritans, British Red Coats and Tories, fishermen, sail-makers, farmers, soldiers of fortune, religious leaders, and great financiers.

We all know of modern Boston as a manufacturing city, but we do not realize that it has more than 5,200 industrial plants, and over 25,000 well-established mercantile business concerns. It is the shoe and leather center of the world and the headquarters of cotton manufacturing, and it is the greatest wool market in the United States. It is the most up-to-date fish port in the world, its production exceeded only by Grimsby, England. Boston is one of the three great rubber manufacturing centers of America, and about 22% of all the rubber products manufactured in the United States come from here. It is surprising how many of the standard label goods bear the Boston imprint, and when we think of certain brands of razors, coffee, teas, woolen garments, candy, not to mention

baked beans and the inevitable cod fish, we think of Boston.

In the field of recreation, Boston is eminent. It is the home of the founder of the playground movement in America, Joseph Lee, who will be honored by the Rec-

It has not been possible in this article to describe all the things to see, the places to visit, and the unique features of Boston. Mr. Douglas Payne of the Chamber of Commerce, 50 Federal Street, Boston, who is chairman of the sub-committees on publicity for the Congress, will gladly provide leaflets and literature of interest to those planning to attend.

recreation Congress. It is a pioneer in outdoor recreation, in children's playgrounds, and model play yards which have been examples for the entire country since the beginning of the national recreation movement. Its settlements and community centers are well known.

The play movement in Boston grew, as it did in most cities from the early stages of private philanthropic enterprise to public supervised recreation programs conducted by the city.

Tours of Historic Interest

But it is historic Boston which intrigues the visitor upon first sight. Delegates to the Congress in October will find that a comprehensive series of tours has been arranged to places of great interest, including park areas, health units, municipal buildings, historic spots, and privately sponsored recreation facilities.

Tentative plans for these tours include a trip to the historic shrines of Boston and vicinity, to Concord, with its famous "rude bridge that arched the flood" and to Lexington, where the "embattled farmers" first stood. Here the historic Buckman Tavern, where the Minute Men waited in the tap room for the British, still stands. Here are such mementos of the Revolution as old bullet moulds, powder horns, and bullet holes left in the doorway from stray shots from the British. Across the Lexington Green is the statue erected in honor of the Minute Men, and beyond is the house where the first soldier fell. At Concord are the graves of "unknown British soldiers" who died in the early struggle between crown and colony bring a pang for those who fell so long ago, far away from home.

On the way to and from Concord and Lexington the tourist passes innumerable places of literary and historic interest. Cambridge, the home of Harvard University, brings many reminders of the early history of education, for only recently this college celebrated its 300th anniversary as the seat of higher learning in America. The Longfellow House, overlooking the Charles River, is a literary shrine, and the Wayside Inn at Sudbury,

where the poet wrote his "Tales of the Wayside Inn," has been restored by Henry Ford to its original appealing simplicity.

Boston, Cambridge, Concord, and Lexington all abound in memories of the great literary age which has been so ably described recently by Van Wyck Brooks in his book "The Flowering of New England." The visitor bent on a literary pilgrimage will have time to see many of these places, and to revel in memories of Emerson, Hawthorne, the Alcotts, James Russell Lowell, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and a host of others.

In Boston

It is not necessary to go beyond the City of Boston itself to find places of historic interest; in fact, it is impossible to be in Boston for any

length of time without coming into intimate contact with such places. The Bunker Hill Monument, a granite obelisk 221 feet high, stands on what was once Breeds Hill, within the lines of the American redoubt which was the center of the battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1776. It is open to the public daily, and the energetic visitor may climb to the top. Beneath the monument lie the quiet streets of

Charlestown, with old houses which have not changed for generations.

The tower of the Old North Church, in which the lanterns were hung as signals for Paul Revere, is not as conspicuous as it once was when it dominated the landscape, but it stands today in its solid beauty, just as it did on that memorable night when the lanterns flashed—"one if by land, two if by sea." Not far away is Copps Hill Burying Ground, where Cotton Mather and many other early dignitaries are buried. Near by, in the North End, is the Paul Revere House, built in 1660, and purchased in 1770 by Paul Revere, who, besides being a great citizen, was a great artisan designer and silversmith. Samples of his work may be seen in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Faneuil Hall, which often disputes with Philadelphia's Independence Hall the title of "The Cradle of Liberty," rears its classic facade in the

heart of the market district, and it surprises visitors to find the bustling life of trade still going on in the stalls and over the counters of this historic building. Above the market, the assembly hall, which was the center of Revolutionary movements in Boston and was used by the British officers as a play house during the siege of Boston, remains intact.

Boston is one city in America which retains the insignia of British rule. Over the Old State House the lion and the unicorn still hold sway, and within this classic building there is gathered a collection of relics and antiques which the delegates to the Congress should not fail to see. When you read in your guide book that "near by stood the Royal Exchange Tavern, from which the first stage coach started to New York in September, 1772," it is not difficult to imagine the scene of its departure. Even today there are many reminders of those old days, and the atmosphere of the past still clings so hauntingly to this part of Boston that when one passes out of the Old State House, where memories of the stirring days of history are treasured, it requires an effort, and some rubbing of the eyes to realize that the traffic on State Street and the bustle of Washington Street belong to the year 1939.

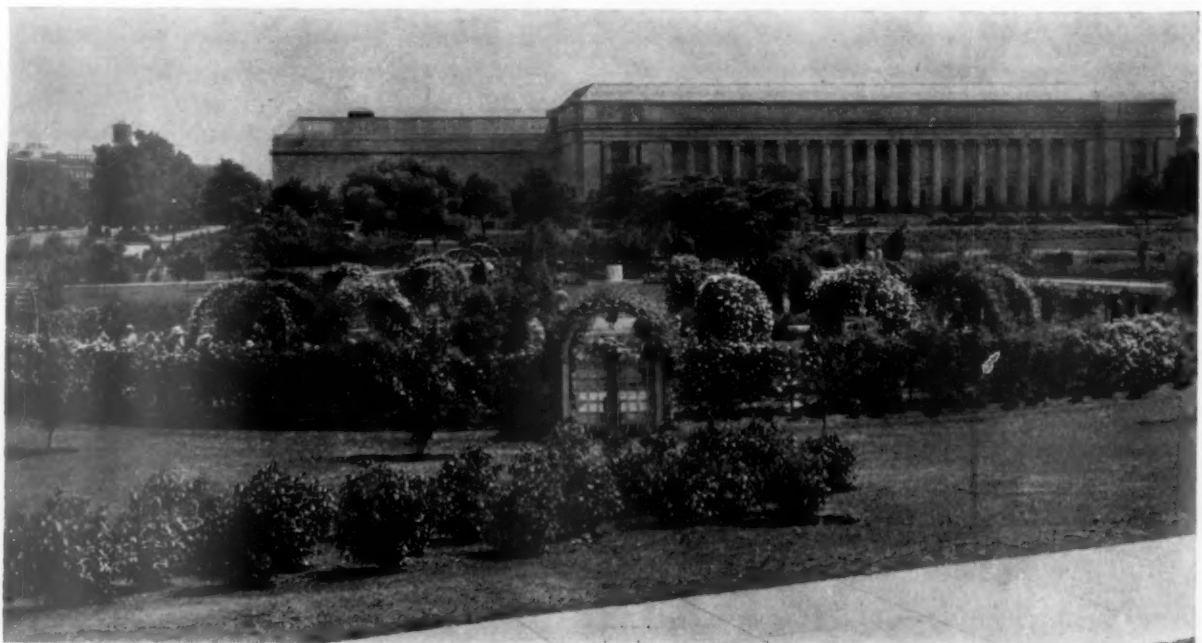
Not far away are the old wharves along Atlantic Avenue, still picturesque, with their ancient warehouses and with the fishing craft anchored be-

side them. On the way to Long Wharf we find a tablet which reads, "Here formerly stood Griffin's Wharf at which lay moored December 16, 1773, three British ships with cargoes of tea. To defeat King George's trivial but tyrannical tax of three pence per pound, about ninety citizens of Boston, partly disguised as Indians, boarded the ships, threw the cargoes, three hundred and forty-two chests in all, into the sea and made the world ring with the patriotic exploit of the Boston Tea Party."

Across the harbor in East Boston the visitor sees the great ocean-going steamers of the present day, with airplanes taking off and landing in the East Boston Airport. Only by dint of imagination can he bring back to these blue waters the sailing craft of the days of New England's great navigation history, when clipper ships sailed from Boston for China and the Orient, as well as for the ports of Liverpool and London. Reminders of the days of the clipper ships are found in museums and historic houses throughout New England. But the present day preëminence of the Port of Boston in the fishing industry is easily discerned in the great modern fleets of refrigerated vessels which dock at the fish pier at the foot of Northern Avenue, beyond Commonwealth pier.

Going back to the business section of the city, one walks along Washington Street, the busy shopping district, with its department stores famed

Boston's museums and parks are recognized as outstanding in any listing of municipal assets



throughout the country for their modern management system and their great bargain basements which make the highest type of merchandise available to those of limited income.

The City's Park System

Boston's park system is one of the finest in the world, and this is said without boasting because it is the repeated opinion of visitors from all parts of the world who view with delight its Public Garden and Boston Common, and the oasis of green throughout the city, and who visit the vast Metropolitan Park area which includes a series of reservations stretching over forty-three separate municipalities so closely knit together by drives and parkways that they form virtually one extensive outdoor recreation area.

What is known as the Boston Metropolitan District is theoretically that area which lies within a radius of ten miles from the center of the famous gold dome of the Boston State House. This system of area reservations will be of immense interest to delegates to the Twenty-Fourth National Recreation Congress.

The district area, which is under the supervision of the Metropolitan District Commission, operates the water and sewage disposal systems of the forty-three cities and towns which comprise it, which have a total population of more than 2,000,000 people. It has developed a remarkable park system, and its plans for the future, as indicated on its most recent map, show that all these cities will eventually be linked by an ideal system of parkways utilizing modern engineering methods which respect and retain the natural beauties of the landscape. Scattered about this area are playgrounds, bathing beaches, facilities for winter sports, picnic grounds, and tennis courts, and many other facilities for enjoying the out of doors.



The Hotel Statler, headquarters for the Congress, is within a block of the Public Garden and Boston Common. Located near all the city's historic shrines, it is within easy distance of railroad stations and bus terminals.

It might be interesting just to glimpse a few of the outstanding figures given in the 1938 report of the Commission, which shows that during the year, 193,000 persons used the bath houses, more than 29,400,000 enjoyed the beaches of the area, the children's playgrounds provided recreation for 262,500 youngsters, golf courses gave opportunity for recreation to 52,000 adults, nature trails were patronized by more than 20,000 persons,

the tennis courts were used by 133,000 persons, and the baseball diamonds gave play opportunity to 60,500.

Among the beauty spots dedicated to the public is the Charles River Reservation, with its lovely Esplanade, the gift of Mrs. James J. Storrow as a memorial to her husband. It is modeled after the Alster Basin in Hamburg. Here, in summer and fall, the river is dotted with pleasure boats and craft of all sorts, beaches are devoted to swimming and sports, and vistas of landscaped parkway stretch out for miles, giving the hiker an opportunity for long walks without hindrance or harm from automobile traffic.

The Middlesex Fells Parkway is another natural reservation, with its system of woodlands and lakes which have been compared with those of Killarney, and its miles of driveway along the Mystic Valley Park of Medford. The Metropolitan area also includes the new Old Colony Driveway with Malibu Beach, which has recently linked the shore beaches in Dorchester for the pleasure of residents. The reservations authority extends to the Lynn Shore Driveway, one of the most beautiful ocean front drives on the Atlantic coast, and takes in the Nahant Beach Parkway, which is also along the Atlantic coast.

The Boston Park Department, of which Com-

(Continued on page 309)

A Fourteenth Century Game Comes to Life

"MORRA," DERIVED from the Latin word meaning hesitation, is a game of Italian origin calling for quick wits and nimble fingers.

Back in the fourteenth century, when Genoa was at war with Pisa, Morra had its beginning. When the Genoans finally won the war and carried away all the Pisan galleons, they pressed the Pisans into service as the motive power. With nothing to do but row a boat, mental deterioration threatened, so in the rest periods someone invented the business of flinging out a fistful of fingers and inviting the other fellow to match the play. The game spread like wildfire among friend and foe alike until today it is a popular pastime among many.

There is plenty of excitement attached to the game, for when a team of Morra players are really in action fingers are flung about with abandon accompanied by a rising crescendo of shouts as the players call the number.

The game consists of twenty-one points, and the successful Morra player can keep score with one hand while playing the game with the other. There is one great advantage: it is not necessary to search about for equipment, for when the urge to play is felt all a competitor needs is one good handful of fingers and a lusty voice!

Attilio Mazzolla, local champion and ardent follower of the game, states: "The very name itself means delay in Italian, and it is that delay between throwing the fingers and the hesitation of the opponent in tossing out his digits that makes the game."

There is a definite rhythm to the play, and the pace grows hotter as the players warm to the spirit of competition. The throwing of the forearm is quick, and fingers should be firmly outstretched to match the number called. It is distinctly not "cricket" to sneak a thumb out from under the palm to match the play of the opponent!

By **EDWARD M. RYAN**
Director of Recreation
Framingham, Massachusetts

It is the belief of Mr. Ryan that his community was the first in the country to organize this ancient Italian game for league play. Is there anyone among our readers prepared to challenge this statement?

The Rules

Here are the simple rules which govern this game:

The game may be played with two or more players. When playing a team match, four men constitute a team.

Twenty-one points constitute a game.

To play the game the players face each other, and when the referee says "go" they simultaneously throw the right hand forward with the fingers extended. With the throw the players call a number. The player calling the total fingers extended is given one point. If neither player scores or both call the same number, there is no score and the action continues.

Each time a player wins a point the scorer gives him a card. The individual, or in team play the team, winning twenty-one cards wins the match.

In team matches, play alternates between opposing players.

In Framingham the Park Department sponsored a twelve team league through the winter months. All games were played at the Foresters' Club House, and fifty-six individuals flung fingers in league competition. The game proved a success from the start. A small trophy was awarded to the league champions who are looking forward to an even more interesting season next year.

Speaking of ancient games, do you know that the Dutch brought bowling to America in the eighteenth century? That the first report of a prize fight—1184 B.C.—was written by Homer? That

the Romans are said to have brought football to England during the conquest of Caesar? That the first covered bowling alleys were built in the twelfth century? That the old-time punishment for a player of cricket who turned professional was a boycott from all employment? That the first golf balls ever to be used were made of leather which was stuffed with feathers?

"A good game is one that can be played almost anywhere, that is within the financial and mental grasp of the masses, that fires the imagination, that challenges the skill or intelligence of the player, that gives him a sense of accomplishment without ever quite letting him attain perfection, that embodies the element of surprise, that gives the player something to talk about and discuss with his friends, and that looks so absorbing when being played that onlookers want to get into it themselves."

Three Playground Personality Stories

By EDITH CRASTO

BEHIND the playground reports we study, behind the newspaper accounts we read of splendid recreational activities conducted in all parts of the country, lie the usually unwritten stories of the personal aspects of these achievements—the stories of recreation workers' own private problems, battles and successes that are interwoven with the excellent programs they evolve. Believing as I do that these personal histories of recreation workers have possible value for others, I'd like to rise up in meeting if I may and mention three fine individuals—and speak of them from the "success story" angle.

From Caretaker to Playground Director

Yesterday, I met on the street, seventy-year-old Mr. Davidson, stepping briskly to his work as director of a large playground. His bare, muscular arms were sun-tanned and even brown, and his swarthy face made striking contrast to his snowy hair.

"Good morning, Mr. Davidson," said I, "You grow younger every time I see you."

"Yes," he replied, "I believe I do. It's my association with the kids!"

Was this picturesque man always a playground director? Not he! Hit by that word beginning with "De—" (Ever hear of it?) he heard of a vacancy as caretaker in one of our county parks. Now, mowing grass and taking care of forty acres of land was not exactly in his line—he'd been a salesman. But what of that? He needed a job and that was that.

During the performance of his normal duties—menial tasks they were too, by the way—he began to take an interest in the boys who came to the park to play. He helped them to organize their sports, refereed games and won himself a place in their friendship and esteem.

Was Mr. Davidson's able volunteer work immediately recognized in the form of a promotion to the playground directorship? No, it wasn't. But as his interest was genuine and intense, he continued to do a fine piece of work in helping the boys. After several seasons I am happy to say that he was advanced to the directorship. Today

For every successful playground and every worth-while community enterprise, someone in the background is putting in hours of planning and work. We present to you three such personalities.

in spite of his late start and roundabout approach to his present profession, he is director of one of the largest county playgrounds in our system. Mr. Davidson's is a real story of personal achievement for he has familiarized himself with the latest practices in all branches of his work. For example, although he was not a trained carpenter or artist he has studied the subject of handicrafts intensively with the result that he recently put on one of the most successful boys' handcraft exhibits ever held in the park.

Builder of Bands and Boys

Mr. Johnson was formerly a member of a large theatrical orchestra. Like Mr. Davidson, he found himself jobless one day.

With time on his hands, he looked around him and began to be interested in the boys of the neighborhood. To see them hanging around the drug stores and the gas stations aimlessly was a depressing, unnecessary sight to Mr. Johnson—when he could offer them something to enliven their days. So he invited some boys in to his own small, humble home with music-making as an objective. He found out quickly how boys will work when a worth-while purpose is presented. Mrs. Johnson found out, too! For her ears were filled with the squeaking of violins, the shrill screaming of flutes and the tooting of the saxs. Certainly, long suffering but loyal Mrs. Johnson had more than one reason to be glad when the addition of bass viols to the ensemble made it necessary for the group to seek larger quarters! Mr. Johnson, looking around for a meeting place, bethought himself of an old unfinished parish house. Thither he took his boys and their instruments. They found an old wood stove, and taking turn about the boys brought in the wood to keep themselves warm.

The attendance and the work have grown until now Mr. Johnson has several units which play well enough to be in demand for dances all round the countryside. Since there is no money to buy music Mr. Johnson spends his days writing his own orchestrations. But in the evenings he may

(Continued on page 310)

WORLD AT PLAY

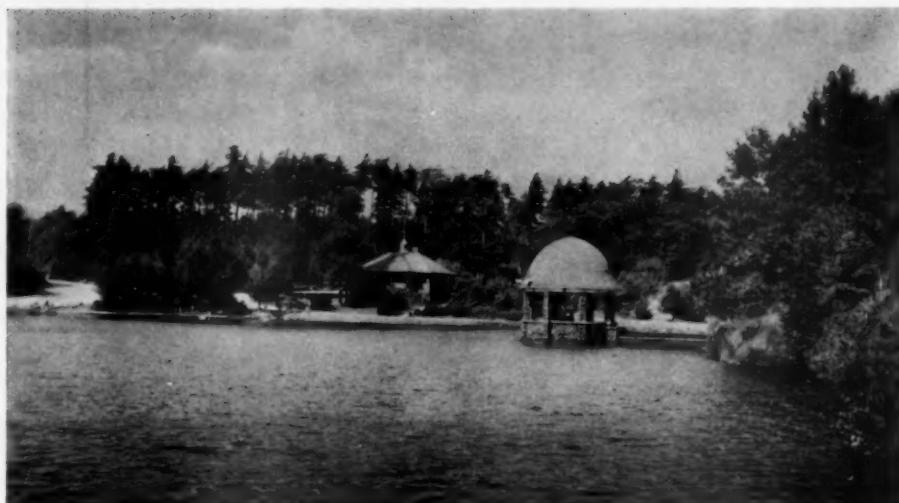


Photo by Joseph C. Matthews

One of Fitchburg's Beauty Spots

Beginning in May and continuing through September, band concerts are given regularly at the Mirror Lake bandstand in Coggs Hall Park, Fitchburg, Massachusetts. These concerts are broadcast over a public address system. The Memorial Building, which is shown in the picture, is equipped to accommodate picnic parties at all seasons of the year and serves as a dressing room for skaters during the winter months. The lake has a widespread reputation as a goldfish center, and little children with bags of bread crusts under their arms are a familiar sight in the park as they trudge toward the lake to feed the fish. In some instances the fish are given to residents who have out-of-door pools in their gardens.

A Campaign for Safe Roller Skating

In the last few weeks before dismissal for summer vacations, boys and girls in the New York City public schools were warned of the hazards of play and taught to watch for elements of safety in all recreational activities. As part of the program, the Safety Education Project conducted a city-wide contest for the best ten roller skating safety rules, and during the week of May 29th eighty safety teachers associated with the project gave talks to school children throughout the city on the dangers of roller skating in the streets or roadways. Children in all the elementary and junior high schools and in parochial schools were en-

couraged to enter the contest and to submit their suggestions for safer roller skating.

Baltimore's Traveling Play Leader

The Playground Athletic League of Baltimore is helping to reduce child fatalities through automobile accidents by assigning a traveling play leader to visit street blocks and teach safe sidewalk games. Each leader carries a kit of play games, and with the simple instructions given the children are able to continue the games under their own leadership when the play leader has gone to another block.

Cleveland Holds All Nations Festival

Nationality groups joined young songsters from all parts of Cleveland, Ohio, in an all-nations festival which opened the summer music season at the lake front on June 20th. The city's Recreation Division sponsored the event, rehearsals for which had been under way since last winter. The festival was divided into three episodes. The first depicted African migration to America and gave opportunity for the singing of Negro spirituals, work songs, and dances. The second episode, presented by selected nationality groups, portrayed the coming to America of the many people who brought their culture to our shores. Groups from various countries marched down "the path of freedom" in the costumes of their homeland and presented folk songs and dances. The third episode pictured the American way

of life which has resulted from the blending of the contributions of other lands.

A Recreation Map for Dayton—Compiled by the Group Work Division of the Dayton, Ohio, Council of Social Agencies, an exceedingly attractive illustrated map of Dayton's recreation facilities has been issued under the caption, "Enjoy Health and Happiness at Dayton's Recreational Centers This Summer." In a column at the left of the map under the title, "Here's Your Hobby," is a classified list of major sports and park and playground activities for the summer schedule. Numbers refer the reader to the parks and play centers listed in another column. Here are given the actual name of the park or play center, the street address, and telephone number. The same numbers serve as a guide in finding the location on the map. The entire circular has been worked out in an ingenious and resourceful way that cannot fail to attract attendance.

Detroit's Pageant of Seasons—"Pageant of Seasons" was the theme of the demonstration given by 1,600 Detroit, Michigan, housewives and businessmen on May 11th. For seventeen years these remarkable demonstrations have been held under the auspices of the Detroit Recreation Department. Some members of this year's huge cast were among the 200 who took part in the original demonstration at Barbour School seventeen years ago, and many more have taken part in other demonstrations since then. The women were all members of the various gymnasium and dancing classes at the city's sixty recreation centers. Mrs. Lottie McDermott Colligan, in charge of the event, in describing the pageant emphasized the sociability which characterized the demonstration. "At the all-day rehearsal at Olympia," she said, "many women bring their lunches and gather in groups in the boxes or balconies for a social visit. Together they have established a tradition that has much in common with Ober-Ammergau."

After a demonstration of gymnastics in massed formation came the pageant in four scenes, each typifying a season. Fourteen thousand people witnessed the event.

A Contest in Play Writing—The Dramatic Committee of the Jewish People's Institute of Chicago, through the cooperation of Alfred M. Stein, a member of the Committee, is offering an award of \$100 for the best original one-act play submitted on or before December 15, 1939. Only those who are residents of Chicago or who live within a radius of 50 miles from it are eligible to enter the contest which is designed to encourage the writing and production of new plays and the creation of local drama of merit. Further information may be secured from the Secretary of the Dramatic Committee, Jewish People's Institute, 3500 Douglas Boulevard, Chicago.

The Huron-Clinton Parkway—A bill to provide for the incorporation of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, which will permit the Michigan counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb, or certain of such counties, to join in a metropolitan district for developing parks and parkways and recreation facilities, has been signed by the Governor. The basic plan of the committee, of which Dr. Henry S. Curtis is executive secretary, is the creation of a 175-mile parkway along the Huron and Clinton river valleys with a number of branch parkways, making the park area easily accessible to residents of the districts. The plan provides for the eventual creation of a mile long public bathing beach which later may be lengthened. It is believed that this beach can be made self-supporting. The commissioners in charge of the project may levy for the purposes of the Authority a tax of not more than a quarter mill upon each dollar of the assessed value of the property of the district.

Outdoor Dancing—The Department of Parks of New York City is conducting a series of free public dances throughout the summer at various parks and playgrounds. Music is provided by the WPA Federal Music Project. All dances begin at 8:00 P.M. and end at 10:30 P.M. Among the rules governing the conduct of the dancers are the following: Gentlemen are requested to wear jackets and remove hats while on the dance floor. Girls are not permitted to dance together, and cutting

in is not allowed. No smoking is permitted on the dance area.

National Music Week in Reading—There were thirteen volunteer committees functioning in the National Music Week celebration held in Reading, Pennsylvania. Music teachers and school children took an enthusiastic part in the celebration, and neighborhood recitals for which parents and pupils planned all the details were particularly popular. In some instances there were family celebrations in which only the children of one family participated, calling upon their mothers and fathers for a biographical sketch of American composers or to join them in singing folk songs. Other children gathered with music students in the neighborhood and arranged evening or afternoon programs. Social features were added in the form of serving refreshments. In one rural home, where the performers and the audience had come from surrounding farms, games followed a lengthy program of ensembles of all descriptions. The material was drawn from the district junior and senior high schools and consisted of a chorus, glee club, orchestra, band, string trios, quartets, and solos. The children took great pride in making the programs by hand.

New York's Learn-to-Swim Campaign—From June 5th to 24th the Department of Parks of New York City conducted a learn-to-swim campaign during which free instruction was given at the various outdoor pools. Admission to the city's indoor pools is free at all times. Children under fourteen years of age are admitted free to the outdoor pools every week day, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. Adults are not permitted in the pools during the children's free morning periods. An admission fee of 20 cents is charged for adults in the outdoor pools. There is no extra charge for instruction.

Paterson's Community Orchestra—"If the Board of Recreation does nothing else this year, last night's event would have stood out as a civic achievement," was the comment of a local paper in Paterson, New Jersey, in writing of the first annual concert of the



NATIONALLY KNOWN

GoldSmith
SPORTS EQUIPMENT

For Playground and
Recreational Departments

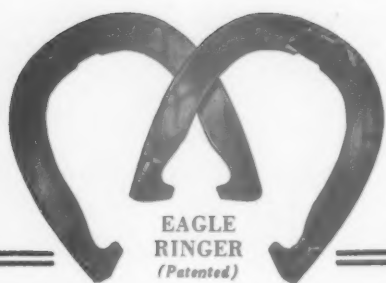
Complete Line of
Equipment for all Sports

*Catalog sent
on request*

THE P. GOLDSMITH SONS, Inc.
JOHN AND FINDLAY STS., CINCINNATI, OHIO

Paterson community symphony orchestra which the Board is sponsoring. "The community owes a vote of thanks not only for an evening of rare good music but also for the demonstration of Paterson's capabilities in the field of art." The orchestra, made up of forty-four musicians in Paterson and its vicinity, made its bow on April 26th before an audience of almost 1,000 people who paid an admission fee, the proceeds being given to the city's three general hospitals. The selections were played from Gluck, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, and Strauss. Only a small percentage of the members of the orchestra are professional musicians, and included in the roster are physicians, lawyers, accountants, students, merchants, a postal clerk, and a barber. Plans for next year involve a series of three concerts, rehearsals for which will be held during the summer, climaxed by a repetition of this year's concert. A choral group will be created as a companion organization.

Music Week in St. Paul—Bands, choral groups, quartets, trios, and soloists combined



Keep Your Pitching Horseshoe Equipment UP-TO-DATE

Write for catalog of the DIAMOND line of horseshoes and accessories, the **complete** line of official equipment. It includes:

- Many Styles of Horseshoes
- Official Courts
- Stake Holders
- Rule Books
- Stakes
- Carrying Cases
- Score Pads

DIAMOND CALK HORSESHOE CO.

4610 Grand Avenue
DULUTH, MINN.

in the observation of Music Week in May, during which five major programs were presented, one in each section of the city. Among the groups participating were the thirty-two piece WPA band and the WPA orchestra, the police band, the St. Paul ladies' band, the Schubert Club ensemble, the Swedish male chorus, the Jubilee Singers, and others. The presentation of three Italian folk dance groups added color. Mrs. Lorayne Palarine, Director of Social Recreation of the Playground Department, was chairman of the committee in charge.

A New Street Sign Appears in Pittsburgh—
"Anna B. Heldman has served the neighborhood for the past thirty-seven years, giving generously, faithfully, lovingly, and tirelessly of her time, energy, and service for the benefit of others. Not only has her personality been reflected in the Hill district, but her influence has been city-wide."

So read in part the petition of Pittsburgh's City Council and Mayor Scully, which recently resulted by a unanimous vote of the Council

in changing the name of Overhill Street on the "Hill" to Heldman Street.

Miss Heldman, a nurse by profession, has for many years been on the staff of the Irene Kaufmann Settlement, of which Overhill Street forms one of the boundaries. The honor paid Miss Heldman in recognition of her many years of service to the neighborhood and the city at large is an honor in which all settlement and neighborhood workers may take pride.

A Chinese Checker Tournament— Word comes from Cincinnati, Ohio, that at the present time Chinese checkers is probably the most popular game for children and adults being offered by the Public Recreation Commission. Recently a tournament was conducted for adults, with a ribbon for the champion and the winner of the consolation tournament. The participants had a most enjoyable time playing with men and women from various districts of the city.

Women's Clubs in the Recreation Program—
One of the most interesting phases of the recreation service of the Playground Athletic League is the club program for women whose ages range from 20 to 80 years. Nineteen different clubs, with a total membership of 516, meet once each week in school buildings or community centers for recreational and social purposes, as well as for club business. Each club elects its own officers and operates under the guidance of a trained leader. Some of the annual events which comprise their program are a Costume Dance, Harvest Music Festival, an educational tour and participation in the Girls' Winter Carnival. They celebrate the Christmas Season with candlelight services at their separate club meetings, and in the summer all of the clubs join together for their annual trip down the bay.

Money earned by the clubs from activities such as card parties, oyster suppers, minstrel shows, carnivals and club dues is used to finance an out of town trip each year to such places as Atlantic City, New York, Niagara Falls or Canada or a one-day trip to the Skyline Drive or Dupont Gardens. The club season closes with a merry banquet at one of the large hotels.

City Forests as Investments—There are in

the United States more than 1,500 community forests which contain about three million acres, according to the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. More than 143,000,000 trees have been planted in these forests. It is estimated that the eventual net return from properly managed forests will range from three dollars to five dollars an acre annually. These forest areas are owned by cities, counties, school districts, and other local units for the production of timber crops, recreation, watershed protection and various other purposes.

Some of New York City's Summer Events—The New York City Department of Parks announces a number of events for the summer playground season.

One contest of special interest, known as "Youth Versus Age in Chess and Checkers," is being conducted between the winners of the group under sixteen years and the fifty-year group in chess and checker tournaments. Other events include contests in all types of musical instruments; amateur singing for boys and girls from eight to twelve years and from thirteen to sixteen years; whistling—solo, novelty, and bird call imitations; magic; and hillbilly songs, dances and music. A contest of one-act plays for boys and girls from ten to sixteen years has been scheduled, and there will be tournaments in jacks for girls under sixteen years and in shuffleboard for men and women over eighteen years of age.

Additional city-wide tournaments will include baseball, softball, punch ball, twilight baseball, horseshoe pitching, and paddle tennis.

At the Lamp Club Girls' Camp—The Los Angeles, California, Department of Playground and Recreation is conducting a summer camp for girls nine to sixteen years of age, under the name, "The Lamp Club Girls' Camp." The camp, a wilderness retreat in Griffith Park only half an hour from home, provides swimming and swimming instructions, hiking, sports, camp games, nature lore, woodcraft, dramatics, music, handcraft, and hobbies. The cost for Lamp Club members is only \$4.00 a week; for all other girls, \$5.00.

Gardening and Nature Activities in Baltimore—About 475 Baltimore, Maryland, child-

MITCHELL
PLAYGROUND APPARATUS

Built:

- Stronger and heavier for safety!



Betterbilt Beach & Pool Equipment
includes Diving Towers, Diving Boards, Pool Ladders, Water Slides, Cocoa Matting, etc.
Write for Free Information

MITCHELL MFG. CO.
DEPT. RM-8 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

ren are enrolled in the home garden project, through which eight gardens of flowers and vegetables have sprung up on plots set aside in parks throughout the city and on school and library grounds. Many of the children have made scrapbooks of cut-out pictures, clippings, plants, and flowers and have learned how to plant and care for glass gardens, dish gardens, and window boxes in their own homes, as well as how to arrange flowers artistically. Adults are coming in for their share of nature lore since opportunity is offered them to take part in field trips through Gwynns Falls and Wyman Parks and the campus of Johns Hopkins University where the wonders of trees, shrubs, lichens, mosses, and ferns are carefully studied under the leadership of an experienced botanist.

Where They Learn to Play Tennis—By a cooperative arrangement with the Public Recreation Commission, the Cincinnati, Ohio, *Times-Star* is offering for the sixth consecutive year weekly instruction periods in tennis for readers sending to the Commission a coupon appearing in the June 6th issue of the *Times-Star*. Instructors from the staff of the Public Recreation Commission are teaching the groups in five weekly instruction periods at thirty locations in all parts of the city. Boys and girls under seventeen years of age are asked to register for day classes. A few evening classes are conducted for adults.

Recreation for Children in Toledo's Housing Projects—Realizing the need for recreational opportunities in Toledo's Federal Housing Project, the Division of Recreation undertook the planning and arranging of a full-time

recreation program. The Whitlock Homes project covers fifteen acres and serves 264 families. The two acre playground, fully equipped with apparatus and with an athletic field, is adding greatly to the program arranged by the recreation staff. Indoor recreation is provided in a building which has two large rooms for the purpose. The housing project now under construction in East Toledo will also be provided with recreational facilities through the efforts of the Division of Recreation.

A Loyalty Contest—Last summer the St. Paul, Minnesota, Recreation Department conducted a loyalty contest to arouse enthusiasm for the local playgrounds and stimulate musical activities. Loyalty songs with words composed by the children, display of colors, and selections by orchestras and choruses were included in the programs. Twelve playgrounds participated with 962 participants.

Linden's Second Annual Hobby Show—Large numbers of people attended the second annual hobbies and crafts exhibit held for three days under the auspices of the Linden, New Jersey, Recreation Commission. Approximately three hundred exhibits were on display representing the hobbies pursued in the city. Special programs were held each evening with the show. On Monday night a sports night program was presented which included demonstrations in archery, table tennis, and tumbling. A colored choral group sang Negro spirituals and Russian folk songs. Scout night was observed Tuesday evening, and on the third night one of the schools presented a spring frolic.

The exhibits included the work of Italian, Slavic, and Scotch nationality groups which were exceptionally colorful. P.T.A., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school recreation clubs, and a number of civic organizations cooperated with the Commission in the exhibit.

International Congress for Workers' Leisure—The International Congress for Workers' Leisure will be held in Liege, Belgium, from September 23 to 26, 1939. The program, arranged under the sponsorship of the International Workers' Bureau, will include a dis-

cussion of workers' holidays and their cultural aspects of art, sports, and activities for women. A number of sightseeing trips have been arranged, and there will be musical and dramatic events. Further information may be secured from the General Secretary, Fernand Charlier, rue Darchis, 33, Liege.

Recreational Developments in San Francisco—The San Francisco, California, Recreation Commission reported in December, 1938, forty-three playground centers, twenty-seven school playgrounds, and eight evening gymnasiaums. Ninety-two different activities were being conducted, five new sites were under construction and land for future playgrounds was being purchased at five locations.

Toy Lending Centers in Chicago—Ten toy lending centers are now in operation with four in the making. Two thousand two hundred eighty-two (2,282) new toys were completed during the month, with 1,000 in process of construction. Not only has this activity developed tremendous interest in the communities but the fact that there were 3,350 visitors to the toy lending shop during the month is a key to the interest of people all over the city as well as outside of the city in following the pattern set by this activity.

Clubs in Lancaster—The club program for boys and girls is the outstanding feature of the fall and winter program conducted by the Recreation and Playground Association of Lancaster, Pa., according to the 1938 report. From one club in 1932 the number has grown to eight, and 1045 boys and girls were registered in the clubs last season. The School Board has been very generous in granting permission for the use of the three school buildings in which the clubs were operated. Through the courtesy of the Welfare Board a room in the basement of the new community building was used two afternoons a week for a boys' club interested in radio and electric construction work.

The Trek Back to Che-Pe-Ko-Ke

(Continued from page 260)

the parent-teacher associations of the city, who dispensed with their November programs to join the library. The pageant was re-enacted. Talks

were made. Mr. Eikenberry, Superintendent of Schools, presided before turning the program over to the library. Lists were distributed on Parent Education.

More than 8,000 feathers were painted by a WPA project being sponsored by the library, and more than 500 folders outlining the project and 5,000 book scalps were made. The feathers were donated by the Knox Poultry Company, and even the manager paid the library a visit, being consumed with curiosity to know what was being done with so many feathers. Five hundred children enrolled for the project and more than 8,000 books were read. "Recreational Programs for Summer Camps," by H. W. Gibson, was used to good advantage, together with "How the Indians Lived" by Dearborn, as well as publications by other well-known writers of Indian lore.

Lantern Pageants in the Making

(Continued from page 265)

slits in the cardboard. These arms also aid in keeping the shape of the lantern. The cut-out design occurs within an inch margin from the top and sides, and a two-inch margin at the bottom of an 8" x 9" lantern side. After the designing, the cutting and the papering is next accomplished. Wiring for the carrying is a matter of taking three ten-inch pieces of fine wire and fastening them to the lantern. Next, the apex is wound around the eighteen-inch stick. The lantern is then ready to be carried by the child.

What They Say About Recreation

(Continued from page 266)

and in the necessity, in the interest of public health, morality and happiness, of providing means by which the depressing influence of these conditions may be minimized."

—Nathan Matthews, Jr.

The Newark Museum Nature Club

(Continued from page 268)

city are visited repeatedly, yet remain popular because of the varied character of each trip. One of the club's standbys is a section of the wooded Watchung Mountains that is reached by bus at a cost of twenty cents. Rock formations, birds, trees, flowers, shrubs, fruits, insects, and amphibians have been studied in this spot in the course of ten trips, and are likely

BEN PEARSON

BOWS AND ARROWS
OF EXCELLENCE

Used by leading universities and tournament winners throughout America, Ben Pearson Bows and Arrows are made by master craftsmen, archers themselves, in America's largest plant, devoted exclusively to fine quality archery equipment manufacture.

Get New Low Price Catalogue

Send for complete free interesting catalogue and Manual of Archery on care of equipment, correct shooting form, building targets, tournament rules, etc.

BEN PEARSON, INC. Dept. R9 Pine Bluff, Ark.

to provide incentives for many trips in the future.

Longer trips are taken several times each year to places of outstanding interest. Among the objectives of recent trips have been the pine barrens of southern New Jersey to study the region's unusual plant life, the seashore for its marine life and birds, the mountainous northern counties for their rare orchids and ferns, and the Franklin Furnace zinc mines for their many minerals. Trips to these places have not only given the members the pleasure of exploring new localities, but have broadened their knowledge of the state's natural history as well.

Each person attending the trips provides his own transportation and meets the groups at prearranged spots close to the scene of each day's activities. This practice naturally prevents many people from attending the longer trips, the locales of which can usually be reached only by automobile, and requires that the majority of the outings be accessible by bus or train from the city. Some prominent landmark, usually a railroad station, is designated for meeting, at a time coinciding with the arrival of a train or bus, the schedule of which is given in the announcement of the trip. At this point the leader takes charge, and the group sets out over the route that he has chosen.

The many details that often harass the leader of a group of from ten to twenty people, especially when he is a stranger, have been solved to a large extent by appointing an assisting host or hostess from the club's membership. While many leaders dominate their groups from the beginning of the day to the

Dubuque's Boys' State Election

THROUGH THE COOPERATION of the Department of Recreation and the American Legion of Dubuque, Iowa, twelve Dubuque boys are being sent for a week's stay at Camp Dodge, just outside Des Moines. Some time ago the American Legion Post called upon Karl Grabow, a member of the Post and director of recreation for the city, to help in planning for a boys' state election which would result in sending a number of the boys of Dubuque to camp. An election committee was organized consisting of the principals of the public and parochial schools, and Mr. Grabow. It was decided to hold an election as a method of selecting the boys to go to camp. The election was arranged to comply with Iowa state laws, and regulation voting machines were used in the fifteen voting precincts. The night before the election a large parade was held under the supervision of the Department of Recreation in which girls and boys of all the schools, the Police Department, the City Council, and members of the supervising organizations took part. Nearly three thousand boys and girls of the high schools voted on the following day for twelve boys out of fifty-two candidates.

When the boys sent by the American Legion Posts from the various towns assembled at Camp Dodge they were divided into two parties, and a second election was held at which a governor and city officials were elected. During the mornings the boys were taught the fundamentals of operating government; the afternoon sessions were devoted to recreation activities.

end and need little help, others appreciate the assistance of a member in making people acquainted, keeping the group together during the day, seeing that the luncheon site is not littered with paper bags, and generally keeping things running smoothly.

While the methods of the different leaders vary greatly, most of the trips follow a similar pattern. The atmosphere is informal yet not that of social outings because of the common interest in nature study. The trips are specific in so far as intensive study is made of related plants and animals, but broad enough to include a wide range of apparently unrelated activities. The collecting of frogs' eggs or the photographing of bursting tree buds during a spring bird walk add variety and help to make

the outing interesting to those members who are not particularly interested in birds.

Of the people attending the trips, some are laymen having their first experience in field nature study, some science teachers and students supplementing their classroom and laboratory educations, and some amateur naturalists of more or less advanced interests in search of specimens for their collections as well as information. By bringing together people of many nature interests in one field trip program to share their knowledge and ideas, the Newark Museum Nature Club has filled a gap in the educational and recreational life of its community, and has helped to make nature study a popular spare-time activity.

Music Forums

(Continued from page 272)

To 305

Rock Council of Girl Scouts and the Division of Recreation, Works Progress Administration, has awakened a keen interest in these fields of community expression on the part of adults and children. The International Festival of Folk Songs and Dancing, on the Thanksgiving Music Calendar, demonstrated to the Little Rock audiences the colorful beauty of authentic, native costumes for dances gracefully and rhythmically presented by community center and playground groups. A large number of sponsoring agencies contributed to the success of this folk festival.

Community concerts and sings in numerous centers of Arkansas have, through the recreation leadership training programs, been initiated and assisted in program planning to the end that they have included much that is significant and artistic in their musical offerings. Community Recreation Councils in several hundred cities, towns and villages of Arkansas have received consulting service from the music phase of the Division of Recreation, Works Progress Administration in Arkansas; and, by including in their local lay advisory committees persons of recognized musical ability and training and of professional standing, these same recreation councils are now experiencing that sense of satisfaction which comes with seeing community music reaching solid foundations through integration into the life of their communities as evolving, living, ever-changing music programs.

Also, in cooperation with the Arkansas State Federation of Music Clubs, the Arkansas Federa-

tion of Women's Clubs, Parent-Teacher Councils and similar organizations, the Community Recreation Councils are now reaching a point where they are producing their own music leaders. It is hoped that through folk festivals and the discovery, direction and presentation of amateur talent, these same communities will before long make more music of their own in expressing their own life and community aspirations. Annotations of Arkansas folk lore will be used for coming folk festivals in several urban sections of Arkansas, and interest is mounting in festival units following the Music Forums' discussions of that means of reviving interest in the presentation and preservation of our national and international musical heritages.

With current surveys being made by the Recreation Committee of the Little Rock Council of Parent-Teacher Associations and the Little Rock Council of Social Agencies, there comes to light the apparent need of municipal financing and supervision of the civic recreation program in Arkansas, capitol city. Developments toward a central park authority are under advisement by the City Council; meanwhile the contribution of volunteer groups and federal agencies in coordinating programs of activities and improvements and in planning are significant.

Community organization for recreation in Little Rock and Arkansas has received new impetus through the inclusion of music in the scope of its program of activities. Of no small moment in the history of this movement are the local music forum groups.

Safety on the Playground

(Continued from page 273)

is in charge of all the captains and is responsible to the play leader for the success of the clubs on the playground.

The duties of the sergeant include keeping a roll book with the names and addresses of members of the club. He is responsible for checking attendance at the regular weekly meeting, for the results of the weekly discussion lesson, and the projects made.

At each meeting the safety lesson is discussed and every member of the club is urged to take part in the discussion. Every member of the club who disobeys the rules is dropped after two warnings.

At the regular weekly meeting each member will be asked to report to his captain how he has

Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles
of Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

Child Study, May 1939

"The Home as a Democracy" by Raymond Gram Swing

Camping World, May 1939

"I Want Democracy in My Camp" by Robert C. Marshall

"What Shall I Pay My Counsellor Staff and What For?"

Training Viewpoint—Ida May Born

Institutional Camp Viewpoint—A. C. Nichols, Jr.

"Summer Camp Insurance" by Norman M. Godnick

The Guardian, June 1939

"The Boy and Girl Age" by Theodore Acland Harper

The National Elementary Principal, June 1939

"Meeting the New in Education" by Guy L. Quinn, Principal, Whitesville School, Neptune, N. J.

Youth Leaders Digest, June 1939

"Shall We Play to Win?—Or Just for Fun?"

The Womans Press, June 1939

"They Call Us a Group Work Agency" by Margaret Williamson

"Co-Ed Recreation" by Margaret C. Harrison

Junior League, June 1939

"Democracy and Leisure" by Eduard C. Lindeman

"New Leisure-Time Problems" by Mark A. McCloskey

The Foil, May 1939

"Behind the Scenes" (Makeup) by Helen Bork

"Knowledge and Achievement Tests in Girls Basketball on the Senior High School Level" by Helen Schwartz

"What Is the Folk Festival Council?"

"Does Physical Education Develop Personality?" by Hilda Guenther

The Journal of Health and Physical Education, June 1939

"Dance—and the Child" by Beatrice E. Richardson

"Corecreational Campus Activities" by Virginia W. Ames

Parents' Magazine, June 1939

"Community Plans for Summer"—A series of interesting paragraph statements about the plans various cities have made for summer.

PAMPHLETS

A Practical Bibliography of Recreational Activities

Compiled by C. O. Jackson, Assistant Professor of Physical Education, University of Illinois.

Wisconsin State Planning Board and Conservation Commission, Bulletin No. 8, January 1939, being a Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Plan and The Minnesota State Park and Recreational Area Plan 1939

These two reports have recently been completed and constitute two more units in the nation-wide study which is being made of recreation facilities

- The Hobbyist**, March 1939
Playground and Recreation Association of Philadelphia, Inc., 1427 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
Price 5¢
- Report of the Perth Amboy Recreation Department, 1938**
Perth Amboy, New Jersey
- Resources in a Democracy for Enriching Personality 1938**
San Francisco Jewish Community Center, San Francisco, California.
- Know Your School—Know Your Superintendent**
Leaflet No. 48, United States Department of the Interior, Office of Education, Washington, D. C.
Price 5¢
- Index of Research Projects, Volume II**
Works Progress Administration in collaboration with the National Resources Committee and State Planning Agencies, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. Section on Recreation, pages 49-59
- Camping Policies** by Dr. James E. West
Boy Scouts of America, 2 Park Avenue, New York City
- Annual Report 1938**
Bureau of Recreation, Dept. of Public Works, Scranton, Pa.
- Annual Report 1938**
Playground Board, Oak Park, Illinois
- Annual Report 1938**
Board of Park Commissioners, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Annual Report 1938**
Recreation and Playground Association, Lancaster, Pa.
- Recreation Review 1938**
Albany Recreation Department, Albany, California
- Annual Report of the Superintendent of Recreation 1938-1939**
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Where Shall We Play?**—A Report on the Outdoor Recreational Needs of New Jersey
New Jersey State Planning Board, May 1938

helped in reducing accidents either on his way to the playground or after his arrival there. All violations of the pledge and the safety rules committed either on his way to the playground or after arrival must be reported to the captain, who passes the report on to the major. The major takes the matter up with the leader, whose decision is final.

Leaders should plan to have safety talks at least once during the season. Mothers and fathers should be invited to be present at a program meeting.

To See What They Can See

(Continued from page 277)

leaves, mosses and butterflies may be classified and assembled in playground museums or, when specimens are living creatures, in homemade cages and receptacles where their habits may be observed.

The making of large maps is a fine post-hike project. These maps may be embellished with amusing drawings and comments such as "Here Marie fell into the creek," "Here Sonia thought she heard a bear" and "Here John picked up a grasshopper. Surprise!" Such a map to which a large group contributes may be quite a work of art. It may be drawn with crayon on sturdy wrapping paper, mounted on wallboard, shellacked, and hung on the wall as a record of one of the high spots of the summer. Some individual will, of course, write up the hike for the playground paper. Camera devotees will develop pictures taken on the hike and post them on the bulletin board. A few of the older, responsible boys or girls who know the points of interest well will perhaps become qualified hike guides (not to supplant adult leaders, but to act as aides on subsequent hikes). Encourage these young experts by lending them—with proper recommendations—to other playgrounds. You, in turn, may borrow from another playground hike guides to help you on some trips with which you are less familiar.

Where to Find Additional Material on Day Hikes

- Adventuring in Nature*, Betty Price. National Recreation Association. \$.60
- Day Camping*, by Maude Dryden. National Recreation Association. \$.25
- The Outdoor Book*, Gladys Snyder and C. Frances Loomis. Camp Fire Girls, 88 Lexington Avenue, New York City. \$.50
- Day Hikes*, Girl Scouts, Inc., 19 West 49th Street, New York City. \$.20
- Partners in Play*, Mary J. Breen. National Recreation Association. \$1.00
- Hikers' Guide*, Ben Solomon. Leisure League of America, New York City. \$.25

Salem Builds Swimming Pools

(Continued from page 278)

equipped with horizontal filters, bathhouses with basket checking systems, gas chlorinators, and heated shower water. The water supply comes from the city reservoir, thus insuring purity from the beginning.

The entire recreation program in Salem is under the direction of a superintendent of recreation, who, during the regular school year, also serves as head of physical education for boys. He is responsible for the organization of all recreation activities, including swimming. The pools are free to the public and are open for general use

from 12 o'clock noon to 9 P. M. The evenings, from 6 to 9 P. M., have been set aside especially for adults but children may also come if accompanied by their parents. By special arrangement after-hours parties can be held without cost, including life guard service. Special swimming instruction is offered free each morning.

The personnel in charge of the activities of the pools includes the general director of each recreation area under whom a staff of life guards works. There are two life guards on duty at each pool during the heaviest part of the day. Other assistants in swimming instruction, life saving, and bathhouse attendants have thus far been available under the W.P.A. and N.Y.A. recreation program. Since all of the property belongs to the school district it has been found advisable to employ one of the engineers from one of the school buildings on each of the pools to take care of the boilers, filters, and other mechanical equipment. In this way there is a permanent employee who is interested in the equipment and also one who carries the same responsibility summer after summer.

Although the school district has been responsible for the capital outlay in constructing these pools, it is no longer a project of the school board itself. An excellent spirit of cooperation exists between the city and the school district. The city, in its annual budget, includes an appropriation to help carry on the swimming activities. It is virtually a joint project between these two political sub-divisions. The cost of operation is divided on the basis of approximately 40% by the city and 60% by the school district. Because of legal barriers, it is not possible for the city to contribute toward capital outlays and ownership. Hence, the appropriation from the city budget goes to provide life guards, chemicals, and other supplies in connection with swimming pool operation.

Although the city does not have a tax levy specifically set aside for recreation purposes, there is a special recreation committee on the city council which has each year included in the city budget an amount as indicated. Should other school districts and cities copy such a plan as the one used in Salem, it would add to the stability of the program if there were included in the charter a levy for recreation purposes. It is also desirable that the costs should be more equitably distributed between city and school district than has been the case in Salem thus far. Although these funds eventually come from the same taxpayers, an equal distribution of the costs gives both political divi-

A School of Recreation at Camp

RESPONDING TO THE NEED for teacher preparation in the field of recreation, Illinois State Normal University has completed arrangements with the East Bay Associates of Bloomington, Illinois, for the establishment of a summer school for recreational leaders at East Bay Camp.

Located fourteen miles north of the campus at Normal, on the wooded slopes of Lake Bloomington, East Bay provides unlimited opportunities for study and practical experiences in a wide variety of recreational activities.

The camp is organized to comply with university regulations governing off-campus courses. Nine semester hours of work are offered and credits earned are accepted by the university exactly as those completed on the campus. Classes meet for one hour a day five days a week for the eight weeks of the summer session. Each class is taught by regular members of the university faculty. The head of the department of physical education of the university staff is the camp advisor and director of the summer school.

The members of the waterfront staff are all registered Red Cross life guards under the direction of a resident Red Cross examiner.

The camp contains approximately forty buildings, including a modern dining hall with a seating capacity of nearly four hundred persons; a branch of the Withers Library of Bloomington, Illinois; an outdoor theater; craft shops; a trading post; and class rooms. Students will be housed in newly built cabins which have been erected as a unit apart from the regular camp for use by the summer school.

Originally designed to meet the needs of re-

sions credit for the work without undue emphasis in either budget on this phase of government.

The swimming pools have been an overwhelming success from the very beginning. Each of the four years the pools have been in operation there was an increase in the participation. Last year a total of 145,000 individuals used the pools in a period of 88 days, from June 7 to September 4. The highest attendance in any single day in the two pools was 5,353. This community feels that its cash expenditure of approximately \$30,000 in capital outlay, exclusive of federal aid, and an annual disbursement of about \$8,000 in this type of recreation is one of its best investments in behalf of the youth and adults of the city.

ligious groups for short-term conferences, East Bay Camp has developed into one of the leading camping centers of Illinois. In nineteen hundred thirty-eight, 3,676 campers from four hundred forty-nine towns in Illinois and forty-seven towns in other states attended conferences at the camp for periods of from three to seven days. The responsibility for the recreational program for these campers becomes the practical problem of students and faculty of the summer school.

Qualified students will direct the activities for campers in hiking, nature study, art, swimming, handicrafts, music and the like for the various conferences throughout the summer, as a part of their regular training.

Wanted—a Public Relations Counsel

(Continued from page 280)

stage actions simple. The audience will be the combined service clubs of Oak Park.

Perhaps this is all a "pipe dream." Yet some wise man once said that our beginning is a dream and our end is a dream, and when we ourselves stop dreaming we die. Well, even if we can't secure a public relations counsel for our staff, can't we all, as executives and staff, aim at being public relations counsels ourselves in a small way? Can't we strive for a viewpoint and policies of our own? An organization so wisely and humanely built that the workers will give the executive the dividends of loyalty and they in turn will receive them in terms of satisfaction in a job not only done well but received well. Couldn't we try for a closer, more alert, more understanding relationship with our community; attend more public meetings, more recreation conferences such as the National Recreation Association sponsors; keep our eye on the changing world with its new play idioms; have more open-house days on the playgrounds when the parents may see a composite picture of our activities? Couldn't we set up a policy of having someone attend every Parent-Teacher meeting and give a brief announcement of the playground program and activities? I have seen this idea work out efficiently in the case of a library program. In short, can't we sell our playgrounds on the three-fold basis of personal relations, public relations, and press relations? I hope so. I think so.

Centers for Girls

(Continued from page 289)

changed, or has been insured, damaged, and is now being sold by the insurance company. One

woman with a flair for interior decorating should be in charge of this phase of the work, for much can be done with little expense by one who knows how and enters into the spirit of the thing, and tactfully guides the others.

More About Leadership

The greatest task facing the recreation director is to secure just the right woman as director of the center and squeeze her salary out of his budget or secure it from a special grant, a gift or some other source. Later the Community Chest or recreation commission may take care of this item officially but at first a demonstration must be made. The girls' center director should be an employee of the recreation department, to coordinate her efforts with the rest of the program, and to be a playground director in the same neighborhood in the summer if at all possible. In one city the director of the center is a kindergarten teacher in the morning and directs the center five evenings a week.

Part time leaders may come from many sources as mentioned under leadership and are paid in many ways. In one city, different civic organizations "adopt" a club leader for a special activity—cooking, sewing, music, dramatics—giving the recreation department her salary for one or more sessions a week for a club year—October 1st to May 1st. In another city a wealthy woman was persuaded to "endow" a certain service in which she was vitally interested. With a live women's council and an energetic recreation director and a creative inspirational woman leader to direct the center, part time leadership should not be a great problem, for those in charge very wisely will only permit the center to grow as they find the right part time leaders and can build up a morale.

Encourage the girls' center director to devote some time daily to visiting the district, getting to know the girls and their problems, cooperating with case workers and other agencies, so that in time she becomes an authority on the girl life of the neighborhood.

Urge the director and leading board members to attend conferences and visit other girls' centers for inspiration and help.

As soon as a girls' center is established, the director should watch for potential junior leaders and train them to help with younger girls.

Toward the end of the first year, all those interested in the center should analyze the problems, programs, and needs, and take steps to improve

the facilities, leadership and program another year.

With one center established as a demonstration, arrange for women's groups to visit it. Soon other sections will be demanding the same. Bring city council members and civic club leaders to see the center and try to get the expense of the girls' center projects included in the regular recreation department budget in the future.

When one center is well established and another neighborhood needs one, get the recreation commission and the same women's council interested. If they are not interested, organize a new one. Find the woman to be the next director and let her work under the present one as an apprentice for awhile. *Don't shift directors.* Girls' centers need the *continuous leadership* of capable women.

"Accent on Youth"

(Continued from page 290)

number in the series. The program will be conducted in two parts: Part I will be patterned after the Walter Damrosch famed radio programs, when children will be introduced and taught to recognize individual instruments in the orchestra. Part II will present selections of special appeal to children including "Aubade," from "Le Cid" by Massenet; "In a Chinese Temple Garden," by Ketélby; "Funeral March of a Marionette," by Gounod; "Triumphal March of the Boyards," by Halvorsen; "The Swan," by Saint Saëns; and "Minuet," by Mozart.

Interesting stories and facts about each program are being prepared so that one week in advance of the performance every elementary school teacher will receive a copy of the story to help her in acquainting her pupils with the program.

First among stories to tell children are fairy tales. The beginning, "once upon a time," kindles immediate response in a child from the earliest years through the grades. No other class of stories gives such stimulus to active imagination or presents so vividly a new world with all sorts of strange things and interesting people. What could be more exciting than the second of the series, which will be a fairy tale story presented in dance pantomime by the Rae Studio of the Dance?

Emerson it was who said, "The eye is the best of the artists." The pleasure arising from color, outline, motion, and grouping stimulates the senses to new beauties, creating a love of beauty which

is essentially taste. The development of good taste in any child cannot be started too soon.

The third program in the junior series will bring drama to the stage. On March 25th the Cameo Players of the Immaculate Conception Academy for girls will present "Princess Moss-Rose," written by Marguerite Merington. These girls have been receiving excellent dramatic training since their entrance into the Academy and are no novices before the footlights. The charm and sincerity of their past performances have been as appealing to parents as to young audiences.

The final program will be presented by the Recreation Commission's own Children's Little Theater. The Little Theater, which meets every Saturday morning, offers instruction in drama, rhythm, melody band, folk dancing, and choral work. Over a hundred boys and girls are enrolled in the theater and the approaching operetta will be given by forty of the advanced members. The Children's Theater is fortunate in being under the direction of a woman of superior theatrical ability and experience. The coming performance, "The Fairy of the Witch's Dell," is by no means the initial public debut of the children.

The Junior Leisure-Time Series has already been endorsed by the superintendent of public schools, the superintendent of parochial schools, and the executive council of the Parent-Teacher Association. Through teachers, principals, and parent-teacher groups, in cooperation with local press and radio stations, the programs are being brought before the children.

We believe that the Junior Leisure-Time Series will prove a step forward in the development of Davenport's recreation program.

Boston Awaits You

(Continued from page 294)

missioner William P. Long is chairman, (and he is also chairman of the Boston Committee on arrangements for the Twenty-Fourth National Recreation Congress), will provide the visitor with delightful scenes and recreation facilities right in the heart of Boston.

Across Tremont Street, one of the most distinguished shopping streets of the city, one walks into the Boston Common, with its great elm trees, its famous Frog Pond, which dates back to the time when Yankee lads protested to General Howe of the British Army that his soldiers were spoiling their skating. Across this thoroughfare one may also step into the shaded paths of the

Public Garden, one of the most noted horticultural parks of the country. The Public Garden has all the atmosphere of an old English park, with its old shade trees, its beds of brilliant flowers, its pleasure lake with swan boats plying back and forth across it, and with swans and ducks feeding from the hands of children. In winter it is gay with skaters, and in summer the people gather about its banks for rest and coolness.

Included in the Boston Park Department is a playground system which last year had an attendance of 8,564,566 children. It has eleven gymnasias, a system of baths and beaches located in many parts of the city. It is in charge of Franklin Park, with its Zoological garden. It maintains two city golf courses and a system of ball parks where Boston's Twilight League baseball games are played throughout the summer. Franklin Field, with its tennis courts, is one of the outdoor attractions for the young.

One of the beauty spots of Boston is the Fenway, which is under the maintenance of the City Park Department. It comprises 116 acres of land bordering on Muddy River, a historic stream whose banks provided farm land for the early settlers. This river is now beautifully landscaped. It is bordered with flowering shrubs, Japanese bamboo, rushes, marshmallow, and a wide variety of trees which have been brought from all parts of the world. A good hiker can walk for seven miles along the Fenway. Its driveways cover more than four miles. In addition to this, the Park Department maintains Marine Park, with its aquarium, and supervises the Arnold Arboretum, one of the most famous horticultural centers in the country, which is maintained by Harvard University for purposes of scientific research in arboriculture, and as a garden for trees and shrubs suited to the climate of Massachusetts.

Three Playground Personality Stories

(Continued from page 296)

be found with different groups of boys, working with untiring zeal. In summer his band draws large crowds from miles around to the open-air concerts. His boys went with him into the woods and cut cedar posts to make a rustic band stand. Securing electricity from the nearby school, they have good lighting and what with an improvised "mike" they certainly give concerts well worth hearing.

To the orchestra boys, Mr. Johnson is universally known as "Pop." If you know anything about boys and girls of today you are aware that a nickname is often a term of endearment. So it is with "Pop Johnson." And so I say three cheers for "Pop" and his boy orchestras! Three cheers for a man who has led the way to better living for part of our American youth! And I would be overlooking the point of my tale if I didn't add: three cheers for a man who has salvaged himself thereby!

The Woman Who Knew How to Take a Joke

My third story—this one is only an anecdote—concerns one Mrs. Pitcher, a recreation supervisor. Every recreation worker will recognize something familiar in the incident. It typifies those numerous occasions when playground youngsters try out a director by some trick or bit of juvenile impudence to see what stuff the director is made of. It's a wise director who comes through such a testing without losing face!

Mrs. Pitcher, of middle age, with snow white hair, approaching the recreation center one morning was astonished to see what appeared to be a large painting on the front of the building. To one of the playground boys who was walking along beside her she cried, "My goodness! What have those boys been up to now?" The boy twisted and turned in great embarrassment and finally, said defiantly, "Well, you'll find out about it any way so I might as well tell first as last. I helped to do it. Now have me arrested if you want to!"

"Oh, Ned!" urged Mrs. Pitcher, "what is it and what does it say?"

"Well, it's the picture of a woman, and it says 'Molly Pitcher's Hotel.' So there!"

Mrs. Pitcher surprised Ned and relieved his anxiety by bursting out laughing. Later, she quite took the wind out of the gang's sails by saying, "Boys, that was a bad thing to do as far as injuring property was concerned, but as far as I am concerned you might have called me many worse names than that. Molly Pitcher was a brave historic character and I consider it a compliment to be called after her. From now on, I'm 'Molly' and 'Molly Pitcher' to you."

It was the best thing that could have happened. The boys have no less respect for 'Molly' and they have a stronger regard for her as a pal. After an evening of games you may hear the boys shout, "So long, Molly! Good night! See yer tomorrow!"

New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

Budge on Tennis

By J. Donald Budge. Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York. \$2.00.

THIS BOOK presents the techniques in tennis playing which help make champions. It tells some of the secrets behind the powerful drives, deadly smashes, accurate strokes, and court strategy which have made Donald Budge the great tennis player he is. Every stroke is illustrated. An interesting section of the book is devoted to a biographical sketch of Donald Budge which will take the reader behind the scenes.

Pottery Made Easy

By John Wolfe Dougherty. The Bruce Publishing Company, New York. \$2.25.

MR. DOUGHERTY'S BOOK is a challenge to the widespread idea that pottery is too difficult and expensive a hobby for the amateur craftsman. It shows how artistic pieces can be turned out in the home shop with a minimum of difficulty and with homemade equipment. In addition to the instructions for making a number of articles, a handy chart is included which will help the beginner choose from a wide variety of interesting projects. The author also gives a brief history of the potter's craft, a glossary of terms, and a list of necessary supplies, tools, and equipment. There are many illustrations.

Better Badminton

By Carl H. Jackson and Lester A. Swan. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$1.00.

THIS IS THE latest addition to the Barnes Dollar Sports Library. It is organized in progressive teaching or learning steps, which should be very helpful to the coach and instructor in organizing his teaching procedure. Instructions are given in the various strokes and strategies, and rules and scoring methods are offered. There are also suggestions for organizing tournaments, and a bibliography and glossary terms are included.

Persons Participating in Leisure-Time Activities by Economic Status

Greater Cleveland. Prepared with the assistance of WPA Project by Howard W. Green. Cleveland Health Council, 1001 Huron Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

THIS STUDY IS AN attempt to suggest improvement in the method of record keeping by leisure-time agencies. In securing the material, nineteen private service organizations were analyzed to determine certain factors regarding the number of persons participating in the various programs, the economic levels from which they came, and the relation of constituencies to the various agencies. A study of economic levels reflects the fact that the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls cater to the highest economic groups, the Y.M.C.A. and

Y.W.C.A. to the second highest, and the various settlement houses to a considerably lower economic grouping. The major portion of the book is given over to a series of spot maps indicating the location of the constituency of each of the nineteen participating organizations. As a method of study and as a basis for careful record keeping, this volume should be of value to all concerned with the administration of recreation.

The Psychology of Making Life Interesting

By Wendell White, Ph.D. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.50.

BUILT AROUND the want for variety in life, this book deals with people in life situations in general, the prevention of unwholesome behavior, and the furthering of mental health. In Part Three the author discusses methods of securing the variety which makes life more interesting, and here the importance of recreation is stressed in a number of chapters. Of special interest is the discussion on active and passive recreation, the pursuit of hobbies, of freedom in leisure hours, and of enlarging experience through companionship, poetry, visual art, and music.

Curtains Going Up

By Albert McCleery and Carl Glick. Pitman Publishing Corporation, New York. \$4.00.

THE AMERICAN THEATER beyond Broadway—the theater of the community groups created by the people themselves in hundreds of cities and towns the country over—this is the theater presented in a volume by two men who have had an important part in developing these amateur groups of players who are establishing a true American popular drama. The book covers nearly two hundred representative groups. It outlines their development, explains how they have created their facilities and staged their productions, and tells just what they have done and are doing. There are 150 illustrations, many of them showing community theater structures as well as stage sets and scenes from plays.

Motion Pictures and Radio

Report of the Regents' Inquiry. By Elizabeth Laine. McGraw Hill Book Co., Inc. \$1.75.

ONE OF THE values of the Inquiry into the Characters and Cost of Public Education in the State of New York study lies in the isolation of certain phases of the study for release to the public. Such is this volume on Motion Pictures and Radio. It is designed primarily for school authorities and deals with the educational values of these means of learning, and the technical problems of adapting them to school use. Experiments indicate that learning with the aid of motion pictures is increased from 20% to 27%. The estimated power of retention is increased by 38% and the pupil's interest is

greatly stimulated. The most important contribution of the radio, says the author, is "that of introducing history in the making." The book's chief value is for teachers and school administrators.

Spring Plays and Programs; Autumn Plays and Programs; Winter Plays and Programs.

Edited by Florence Hale. Educational Publishing Corporation, Darien, Conn. 75¢ each; for set 3, \$2.00.

These volumes represent collections of entertainment material for classroom and auditorium use, including short plays, simple pageants, recitations, poems, songs. They will be of particular help to the teacher or leader responsible for holiday and special day programs. Suggested stage settings and costumes are simple; directions are clear and easy to follow.

Quartz Family Minerals.

By H. C. Dake, Frank L. Fleener and Ben Hur Wilson. Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. \$2.50.

Here is a handbook for the collector of minerals who will find all the information he needs for the pursuit of a fascinating hobby. Much of the material is not available elsewhere.

The Boys' Club.

By R. K. Atkinson. Association Press, 347 Madison Avenue, New York. \$1.75.

The author, who has had long experience in the recreation movement and in boys' club work, brings practical knowledge and experience to this presentation of the history, objectives, activities, and practices of the boys' club movement. The book is a story of the development of the specialized techniques for helping boys caught in bad social and economic environments. It traces the task of forming clubs from gangs in order to prevent delinquency and then opening the way for more constructive work through the discovery of the interests and aptitudes of these boys.

How to Make Music on the Harmonica.

By P. V. Planta. Leisure League of America, New York. \$35.

A complete manual on harmonica playing is this booklet which gives information on the subject ranging from a brief history of the mouth organ to methods of securing special effects and the arrangement of a number of selections for the harmonica. It is an exceedingly practical booklet for the would-be harmonica player.

Manual for Christian Leaders.

Young Men's Christian Association, Dayton, Ohio. \$1.00.

This book is the report of the 1938 Christian Leaders' Institute held last December at the Y.M.C.A. in Dayton, Ohio, under the sponsorship of the Youth Program Council of the Y.M.C.A., in cooperation with a number of local agencies interested in youth. Among the subjects discussed and demonstrations given were Banquet and Supper Programs, Directing Amateur Dramatics, Discussion Groups, Program Planning, Recreation Leading, and Song Leading. The manual records the proceedings of the meetings in a volume of 120 pages.

The Museum and Popular Culture.

By T. R. Adam. American Association for Adult Education, New York. \$1.00.

Museums have long played a part in providing their communities with facilities for adult education in the arts and sciences. It is therefore appropriate that a booklet summarizing the contribution of museums should be included in the series of studies in the social significance of adult education in the United States. The book is not an appraisal of the museum movement in all its phases, but is designed only to be an evaluation of the specific types of museum activities which touch on the diffusion of learning among the adult population.

"Understanding Youth—His Search for a Way of Life."

By Dr. Roy A. Burkhardt. The Abingdon Press, New York. \$1.50.

A most practical and helpful book for workers in church recreation. Dr. Burkhardt has had wide experience in work with young people and his own church is a laboratory in which much of his program has been developed. The final chapter entitled "A Program to Meet the Needs of Youth" brings together something of Dr. Burkhardt's philosophy and much of his program for his own church young people.

"Which Way America? Communism, Fascism, Democracy."

By Lyman Bryson. The Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Avenue, New York City. \$60.

There are many unAmerican interests now using high powered propaganda to gain the support of various sections of the American people. Lyman Bryson in a very interesting and effective way has written this little volume describing in clear terms Communism, Fascism and Democracy in order that people may have the facts wherewith to understand and meet the forces of partisan propaganda. It is written in conversation style such as Professor Bryson uses in his radio programs.

Officers and Directors of the National Recreation Association

OFFICERS

JOHN H. FINLEY, President
JOHN G. WINANT, First Vice-President
ROBERT GARRETT, Second Vice-President
MRS. OGDEN L. MILLS, Third Vice-President
GUSTAVUS T. KIRBY, Treasurer
HOWARD S. BRAUCHER, Secretary

DIRECTORS

F. W. H. ADAMS, New York, N. Y.
F. GREGG BEMIS, Boston, Mass.
MRS. EDWARD W. BIDDLE, Carlisle, Pa.
MRS. ROBERT WOODS BLISS, Washington, D. C.
MRS. WILLIAM BUTTERWORTH, Moline, Ill.
HENRY L. CORBETT, Portland, Ore.
MRS. ARTHUR G. CUMMER, Jacksonville, Fla.
F. TRUBEE DAVISON, Locust Valley, L. I., N. Y.
HARRY P. DAVISON, New York, N. Y.
JOHN H. FINLEY, New York, N. Y.
ROBERT GARRETT, Baltimore, Md.
AUSTIN E. GRIFFITHS, Seattle, Wash.
MRS. NORMAN HARROWER, Fitchburg, Mass.
MRS. MELVILLE H. HASKELL, Tucson, Ariz.
MRS. CHARLES V. HICKOX, Michigan City, Ind.
MRS. MINA M. EDISON HUGHES, West Orange, N. J.
MRS. JOHN D. JAMESON, Sugar Hill, N. H.
GUSTAVUS T. KIRBY, New York, N. Y.
H. MCK. LANDON, Indianapolis, Ind.
MRS. CHARLES D. LANIER, Greenwich, Conn.
ROBERT LASSITER, Charlotte, N. C.
SUSAN M. LEE, Boston, Mass.
J. H. McCURDY, Springfield, Mass.
OTTO T. MALLERY, Philadelphia, Pa.
WALTER A. MAY, Pittsburgh, Pa.
CARL E. MILLIKEN, Augusta, Me.
MRS. OGDEN L. MILLS, Woodbury, N. Y.
T. SUFFERN TAILER, Locust Valley, L. I., N. Y.
MRS. JAMES W. WADSWORTH, Washington, D. C.
J. C. WALSH, New York, N. Y.
FREDERICK M. WARBURG, New York, N. Y.
JOHN G. WINANT, Concord, N. H.
STANLEY WOODWARD, Washington, D. C.

Can You Answer These Questions?

- Describe an appropriate project for commemorating the establishment of the Northwest Territory which was at the same time designed to interest children in vacation reading.

See pages 259-260

- Suggest an outline for a four-part lantern pageant. How may a lantern frame be constructed? Describe methods for devising both direct and indirect lighting systems. How may lanterns be decorated?

See pages 261-264

- What are the objectives of a museum nature club for adults? Suggest the procedure to be followed in conducting a successful club.

See pages 267-268

- What steps are involved in organizing a music forum? Describe a program of activities for such a group. What types of organizations may be enlisted in such an undertaking?

See pages 269-272

- Describe some of the activities which may be introduced into a playground safety program. What are the duties of a children's safety committee? How may a safety club be organized?

See page 273

- Enumerate five of the different types of trips which may be taken from playgrounds and their objectives. What preparations should be made for a hike? Discuss the problems of leadership. Suggest activities for rest periods during hikes.

See pages 274-277

- List the services which a public relations counsel might perform for a recreation system. Describe the type of person such a counsel should be.

See pages 279-280

- Define a national park. What recreational facilities are provided in many parks? Summarize one of the acts passed by Congress which is affecting most vitally the progress of the national park movement.

See pages 281-282

- Give a definition of a girls' center. What qualities should the director of such a center have? What facilities should be included? Mention some appropriate activities. List criteria which might be used in judging the success of centers for girls.

See pages 283-289

- Describe an experiment conducted by a recreation department in providing a series of programs for elementary school children designed to create a taste for good music, drama, and dancing.

See page 290

- Describe the game of Morra. Give its origin and suggest some of its values.

See page 295

True Americanism

IN a booklet entitled "True Americanism" * Louis D. Brandeis, former Justice of the Supreme Court, points out that the American standard of living implies in substance the exercise of the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. "Life in this connection means living, not existing; liberty, freedom in things industrial as well as political; happiness includes among other things that satisfaction which can come only through the full development and utilization of one's faculties. In order that men may live and not merely exist, in order that men may develop their faculties, they must have a reasonable income; they must have health and leisure. High wages will not meet the worker's need unless employment be regular. The best of wages will not compensate for excessively long working hours, which undermine health. And working conditions may be so bad as to nullify the good effects of high wages and short hours. The essentials of American citizenship are not satisfied by supplying merely the material needs or even the wants of the worker. Every citizen must have education—broad and continuous. This essential of citizenship is not met by an education which ends at the age of fourteen or even at eighteen or twenty-two. Education must continue throughout life. . . . Whether the education of the citizen in later years is to be given in classes or from the public platform, or is to be supplied through discussion in the lodges and the trade unions, or is to be gained from the reading of papers, periodicals, and books, in any case, freshness of mind is indispensable to its attainment. And to the preservation of freshness of mind a short work day is as essential as adequate food and proper conditions of working and of living. The worker must, in other words, have leisure. But leisure does not imply idleness. It means ability to work not less but more, ability to work at something besides breadwinning, ability to work harder while working at breadwinning, and ability to work more years at breadwinning. Leisure so defined is an essential of successful democracy. . . ."

* Personal Growth Leaflet Number 92, National Education Association, Washington, D. C.